Towns and Settlements—1938

Alabama

160

Birmingham, Ala. Post
February 21, 1938

GROUP SEEKS TO FORM ALL-NEGRO FARM TOWN

If the Southern Progressive Association has its way, Alabama will be one of the first states in the country to maintain an all-Negro farm town.

Representatives of the association report that they have a tract of land between Gadsden and Birmingham upon which the experiment would be initiated. The farm town would be owned, controlled and inhabited by Negroes, and consist of a business area of stores, parks, theaters and recreation centers, surrounded by a model community of farms.

The land is to be sold in lots to Negroes in the Birmingham district who will be expected to place a relative or tenant on the farm to operate it on a partnership basis.

Mayor Green Of Mound Bayou Will Deliver Address

Weekly Review

Officers and members of the Southern Progress Association met in the office of hte Weekly Review last Thursday night and set Sunday, May 29th, as the day on which an all-day outing will take place on the proposed site of New Ethiopia—the all-Negro afrm town to be established between Gadsden and Birmingham.

4-8-38

Mr. E. T. Swift is arranging for transportation for all who want to spend the day on the site and Robert Durr is making plans to secure free refreshments for all who attend.

Birmingham, Ala.

Mayor Green of Mound Bayou, Miss., an all-Negro town, has been invited to make the principal address. Others who will be on the speakers lineup are, Rev. [illegible] B. Williams, President of The Inter-Denominational Ministers' Alliance of Birmingham; Attorney Clarence Inzer of Gadsden and Mr. Morris of the Birmingham Chambers of Commerce; and Gov. Graves is asked to have a representative present. A representative from Tuskegee Institute will be present and speak.

Attorney A. E. Brown has been asked to fix papers for the formation legally of a real estate organization to handle the sales of the land. And Attorney Shores is whipping in shape legal papers for the sponsoring organization.

All persons desiring to make the trip are asked to notify the Southern Progress Association for reservation by whatever mode of transportation is worked out, by calling The Weekly Review office in Birmingham, Phone 3-1973, or writing to the Secretary of the Southern Progress Association, 416, 17th St., No. Birmingham, Ala.

ALABAMA'S NEGRO MUNICIPALITY

Back in 1899 a group of Negro citizens near Anniston incorporated a separate municipality for members of their race. This experiment, the second such town in the South, has been notable.

54 Ala.

The history of Hobson City is told by Attorney Ross Blackmon, of Anniston, in a 61-page pamphlet, "A Story of the Progress and Achievements of the Negro Race in the Art of Self Government." Tues. 7-1-47

"At an early period in my professional career," he recalls, "there came into my office one day, in the city of Anniston, Ala., a committee of colored citizens, who advised me that they had been excluded as members of the population of their home town, Oxford, Ala., and restricted to certain circumscribed limits in which to reside, soliciting my professional aid in their behalf. At that tme they were duly qualified electors under Alabama law. I advised them to incorporate the excluded territory into a municipality of their own. This was done. They called their municipality when incorporated 'Hobson City,' naming it for the Southern hero of Merrimac fame. I have watched the career of these people during subsequent years, and although their lives have been rooted deeply in the soil of poverty, they have grown in character and Christian stature to an extent that should challenge the respect and admiration of the Christian people of all races throughout our land and country."

Mr. Blackmon explains that he has written the pamphlet as a means of helping the leadership of Hobson City to raise funds for "the paving of their streets, the establishment of a public library, and the erection of a monument to perpetuate the memory of the great scientist, George Washington Carver, as a true benefactor of mankind."

At the time of incorporation, Hobson City had only 12 families, with 135 people. Today the population is 1,050. From the original 12 houses, the place has grown to have 28 streets and 260 dwellings, all property being owned by Negroes.

The school, started in 1905 with one teacher and 70 pupils, now has 12 teachers and 470 pupils. The town has a recreation park of 17 1-2 acres, with swimming pool, ball diamond, bowling alleys and other attractions. It is named for Booker T. Washington. Montgomery, Ala. Advertiser

Water and lights are supplied by the same companies serving Oxford and Anniston, and upon the same terms. There are "many business concerns, all operated by colored people, namely: Grocery stores, cafes, woodyards, beauty parlors, a finance company, bootblack stands, truck farms, electrical shops, plumbing shops."

"Devoutly religious," the people of Hobson City have four churches—two Methodist, one Baptist, one Church of God. There also is a Masonic Lodge, and a chapter of the Order of Eastern Star.

In the history of Hobson City there has been only one murder, and neither the murderer nor the man killed was a resident of the town. In 1945, there was "no arrest" in Hobson City. In 1946 "there were only two cases of juvenile delinquency on record." Tues. 7-1-47

The town officials, all Negro, are a mayor; head councilman and chairman of water and lights; councilman and chairman of cemetery; councilman and chairman of streets and building; councilman and chairman of police force; chairman of sanitation department; city clerk, and treasurer. One councilman, Ed Pearce, "was one of the first councilmen when this city was organized in 1899, and is one of the councilmen at present. He is often seen after heavy rains, with his shovel and hoe, filling up some hole in the street or opening up drains that were stopped because of the rain."

Lawyer Blackmon points out that the leaders of Hobson City "from the very beginning have sought to inspire its people with the duty of patriotism. . . They have ever sought to inculcate in their people the doctrine that to the industrious and humble come ever the greatest of blessings. They have proclaimed the great truth that, 'Labor conquers all things.' The exemplary and toilsome lives of the Negroes of Hobson City have served to establish the truth in mortal life that in the end success will come to those who possess a high and noble character regardless of race."

This little pamphlet about a little-known and highly successful social experiment in Alabama should interest many readers. The simple, unvarnished narrative is a contribution to understanding and sympathy among the people of the South. Tues. 7-1-47

WHAT HOBSON CITY CAN DO

Afro-American

• Hobson City, Alabama, an all-colored town, has 28 streets, 260 dwellings and 1000 people.

(54)

It has just issued a 61-page pamphlet.

Hobson City got along without a police force or crime in 1945 and 1946. It has a school building with 12 teachers and 470 pupils, a recreation park of 17 acres, a swimming pool, a baseball diamond and bowling alleys.

The pamphlet comes out with the hope of raising funds for the paving of the streets, establishment of a public library and the erection of a monument to Dr. George Washington Carver. Baltimore, Md. Sat. 9-6-47

Hobson City is named for Lieut. Richmond P. Hobson, white, who sank the Merrimac in Cuban waters in an attempt to prevent the escape of the Spanish fleet from Santiago Bay during the Spanish-American War.

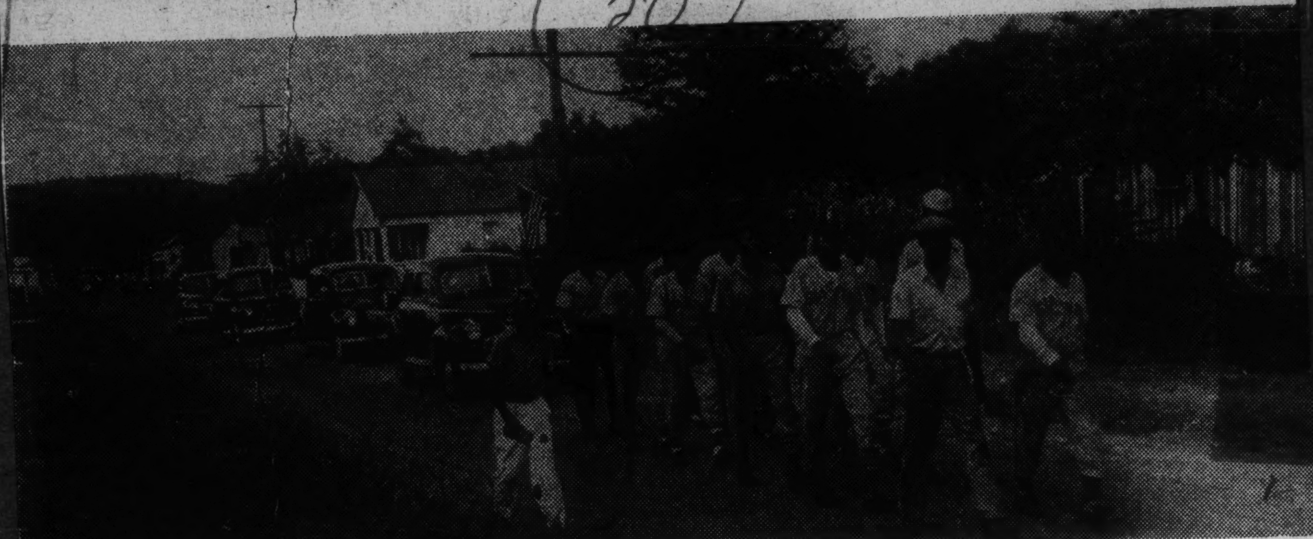
Hobson City can honor Dr. Carver best by changing its name from Hobson to Carver And, if it needs money for its streets and library, let it save its pennies and pay for its own improvements.

In the long run, it will appreciate and make better use of them if it will pay for them itself.

Hobson City, Ala -

All Negro Town Elects Mayor

Hobson City, Alabama 1948



Willie Head, 55-year-old construction company foreman was sworn in as mayor. Head and the other Kinloch officials, appointed by the court house, will serve without pay until next April, when the first election will take place.

8-29-4

Speaking Out

From The New South

The 50 Defender

By ROBERT DURR

ALL-NEGRO TOWN WANTS NEW COMERS

DOWN in Alabama behind where the sun goes down—60 miles North of Birmingham, and just outside of Anniston, is located the all-Negro town of Hopson City. A mountain range runs around this little municipality like a rubber band around the morning newspaper where Negroes are proving to themselves and others that Negoes can run a city; that Negroes will respect constituted authority vested in a Negro Police Chief and a staff of four police officers and where a Board of Councilmen, presided over by a Mayor, demonstrates a high degree of efficiency in giving their fellow citizens good government minus graft, fascistic demagogue or power drunk parasitic bureaucracy.

Sat 9-11-48 50

Hopson City is some twenty years old—has a population of 1,015, modern city hall, jail, four churches, several grocery and drug stores, a fine swimming pool, school for veterans. Located here is Calhoun County Training School with 16 teachers and 800 students. It is the educational center of the county. Modern buses transport rural pupils from all parts of the county to and from this school each day.

Chicago Ill.

The city is situated in one of the most beautiful natural valley settings in the South. Here someone with a little capital could do a great deal of good and make a whole lot of money by establishing within or adjacent to Hopson City, modern vacation tourists huts and facilities found at large assembly summer camps sufficient to accommodate conferences of groups of upwards of 500 people. Hopson City's only doctor is no more. There is only one doctor (white) in the three county areas bordering the little town.

NEED DENTISTS AND DOCTORS

The need for a dentist compares with the need for a doctor. In this connection may I digress and say that the more I travel through the South and see people who cannot afford hospitalization and adequate medical care, the more I am overwhelmingly convinced I became that socialized clinical and medical care for the indigent is a need which should be met by United States government.

The need for such care will not, and cannot, be met until this—the vice inherent in the quota practice which keeps thousands of would be physicians out of school each year is smashed and a system is set up which will make it possible for the government to fix the number of physicians, dentists and technicians we will need as against the number of such servants as we may expect to come out of existing schools under the present quota ceiling plus mortality expectancies and guarantee subsidized educational assistance for medical training to worthy aspirants with more of the urge to serve than to traffic in human misery for the coin of the realm—the necessary funds on a loan basis to see them through medical school.

The advance could be repaid out of such subsidy as might be extended to those who could be assigned in areas where people are unable to avail themselves of needed clinical and medical service. In Hopson City and other communities, states like Alabama might well set up a state or area hospital made possible under the Hill-Burton bill.

I wish to respectfully suggest that my readers pass the word along to some fellow who could set up a factory with an employment capacity of 2,000 workers producing something which can be shipped to all parts of the nation and the world—that every dollar invested in Hopson City on such a project would do the work of ten. The number of persons so employed in Hopson City would support an additional 18,000 population which in turn would support a couple of hundred additional business enterprises giving employment to another 2,000 persons.

Sat 9-11-48

PICNICS AT HOPSON CITY

Sixth Avenue Baptist Church of Birmingham, Dr. J. W. Goodgame, pastor, with its upwards of five thousand members annually charter a score of buses to transport them to Hopson City for their annual all day picnic. The little city's merchants and officials give them the keys to the city and a good time is had by all.

Growing up in or migrating to cities where someone else has the responsibility of making and administering the laws, planning for promulgating the growth in the matter of education, sanitary, water, electric services, recreation and cultural facilities is quite different from exercising these civic responsibilities under your own vine and fig tree as in the case of Hopson City and the several other all-Negro towns scattered throughout the nation.

What we need in the South are towns with Negroes and whites holding office on a basis comparable witth the ratio of each group to the total population, with that holding straight through in the schools and other public facilities. From an all-Negro town, Hopson City may lead the way in effecting transition into a city wherein we may see the type of municipal setup as suggested. That calls for a well worked out plan and a vigorous working of that plan by people who love to create, build and maintain that which is big to the end that it may lead the way in selfless, equitable and truly democratic service. For more information about Hopson City. write: H. H. Flowers, Acting Mayor, Hopson City, Alabama.

GROUP TO INCORPORATE FACE COURT BATTLE

50

FORT LAUDERDALE, Ala. — (ANP) — Negroes of the Northwest section here intend to incorporate their community into a town despite the opposition of the white minority, it was learned here this week.

The Negroes who comprise 65-70 per cent of the population filed for incorporation last Saturday, Willie Mose said. He said a meeting would be called in [illegible] to elect the necessary officials.

All-Negro Town Elects Officials

The Courier 50

Sat 10-2-48

HOBSON CITY, Ala.—(ANP) — A new Mayor and members of the City Council were appointed by citizens of this all-Negro community in last week's elections. H. H. Flowers was elected to the office of Mayor to succeed Mayor Ed Pierce, who declined re-election. Flowers was unopposed for the office.

Pittsburgh Pa

The city's five council seats went to W. M. Bates and A. Snow, with twenty-nine votes; Willie Mosely, thirty votes; Albert Nicholsom, ten; Clyde Atkinson, twenty-one and Edgar E. Hanna, twenty-seven.

50 1953

HOBSON CITY
(CALHOUN COUNTY, ALABAMA)

235

235

Segregation Doesn't Bother Hobson City — All Are Negroes

Special to The Post-Herald

ANNISTON, Dec. 18—The pending decision of the U. S. Supreme Court on segregation in public schools will have little effect on the township of Hobson City in Calhoun County.

All of Hobson City's almost 1000 citizens are Negroes.

The all-Negro township, believed to be the only one with no white residents incorporated in the South, has carried out its own functions in peaceful co-existence with Anniston and Oxford for more than 53 years.

Post Herald

The children of the Negro township attended Calhoun County Training School, which is under the jurisdiction of the Calhoun County School System.

The school, which includes grades from the first through the 12th, is taught entirely by Negro teachers, several of whom possess master's degrees.

P. 34

A recent breakdown of school teachers' salaries in the county system showed the average Negro teacher's monthly salary was higher than that of the average white teacher.

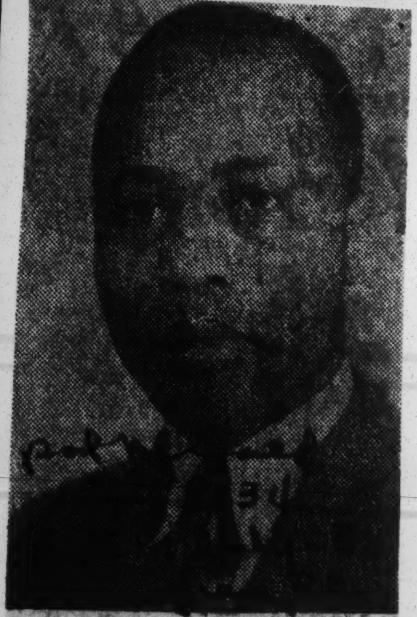
Birmingham

Ala

Hobson City, under the leadership of Mayor Horace Flowers for the past eight years, has paved its main streets and improved other municipal services for its citizens.

The town has its own police force and a volunteer fire department equipped with ample hose. Most other municipal services are supplied by neighboring Anniston and Oxford.

12-19-53



MAYOR FLOWERS

50 1964

HOPSON CITY, ALABAMA

DEC

279

A Doer For His Racial Group

Birmingham World

By EMORY O. JACKSON

HOBSON CITY, Ala.—(SNS) — Joseph L. Striplin, who will be 52 on Dec. 12, is the 13th mayor of the all-Negro town of Hobson City, Ala. He views the population and civic growth of this town of approximately 1,500 persons as evidence of what he "always wanted to do for my race."

JOSEPH R. L. STRIPLIN

On Thanksgiving night, Nov. 26, the town kicked off a campaign to raise funds to construct a combination new City Hall building and a historical heritage library. The funds raising campaign was launched at a banquet held at the New Hope Baptist Church of which the Rev. Esdel M. Davis is the pastor. The Rev. Davis made the featured speech, which dealt with the theme, "Government, Governor and the People, and Their Relation."

A group known as the "Ebony Crusaders" has been officially authorized by the Hobson City Council to conduct the funds-raising campaign.

Officers of the funds promoting group include: Johnnie A. Geeter, president; Alfred Johnson, first vice president; James D. Snow, 2nd vice president; Johnnie Quinty, Sec.-Treas.; Pastor Davis, chairman of the campaign committee; James A. Dunn, chairman of the trustee board, and George W. Height, founder of the organization.

Mayor Striplin said that the campaign has been organized on a basis that contributions to the City Hall and Library Fund will be tax exempt. Checks should be made payable to the "Town of Hobson City, Alabama."

The resolution which was approved by the Hobson City Council on Sept. 8, 1964, giving the Ebony Crusaders authorization to conduct the funds-raising campaign, said, in part: "Anyone found soliciting without the Town's seal and signature of its mayor, shall be illegal."

Councilmen of the Town of Hobson City include Aldridge Snow, chairman of the Street Committee; Charles E. Staton, chairman of the Traffic and Police Committee; Clyde R. Atkinson, chairman of the Water Committee; and Lee D. Young and Charles Dumas.

9-3

Under his administration, Mayor Striplin has induced an industry to locate in the town which will employ approximately 300 persons. A Girl Scout Camp which will serve seven counties has been located in this town. The Hobson City Chamber of Commerce will be seeking other job-making enterprises. For years Hobson City was only a bedroom town.

Sat 12-5-64

Mr. Striplin, the son of the late Robert (Bob Striplin and Fannie E. (McMurray) Striplin, was born in north Talladega County, Dec. 24, 1912. He was graduated in 1932 from Calhoun County Training School, Hobson City, as valedictorian of his class. He had to study by poor lights during his school-going days. Because of illness, Mayor Striplin did not have an opportunity to attend college.

He joined the Pine Ridge Christian Methodist Episcopal Church at the age of 12. He is active as a churchman, serving as steward and trustee.

B'ham, Ala

A salesman by profession, Mayor Striplin has been a civic go-getter for Hobson City. He has made valuable contacts in business and political circles. He said that he has found that Hobson City's membership in the Alabama League of Municipalities has been rewarding and productive.

Hobson City has a big potential as an overday tourist town. It has the natural resources, location and proximity for visit-a-day tourists. Its wooded hills could be developed into picnic grounds which could lure visitors and church groups in nearby cities.

Just now, however, Mayor Striplin is looking forward to raising enough money to build a new City Hall and library. He would like to see the library become a depository for the achievements and contributions of members of the Negro group in Alabama. He is hopeful that he can get support from cultural organizations and literary groups in Alabama.

Mayor Striplin revealed that he has always desired to do something big and lasting for the Negro group.

ALL-NEGRO TOWN TO GET SEWING MACHINE PLANT

Louisiana Weekly

HOBSON CITY, ALA. (ANP) -- The mayor of this all-Negro community said last week the Genesco Co. will locate a sewing machine plant here. Sat. 2-16-64

Mayor, J. R. Striplin said the plant initially would employ about 150 persons. Another 100 will be added as soon as they can be trained, he said.

Construction will start as soon as possible, Striplin said.

Officials of the neighboring Anniston Chamber of Commerce assisted Hobson City in obtaining pledges for about $90,000 with which to buy bonds to finance the plant.

50 1958

MAGAZINE, ALABAMA

DIGGS ASKS CLOSING POST OFFICE IN ALABAMA BE INVESTIGATED

Washington, D. C., Jan. 27.—Congressman Charles C. Diggs, Jr. (D-Mich.) asked Postmaster General Summerfield today for an immediate investigation of the scheduled closing of the Post Office branch serving [illegible] community of Magazine, Alabama. The text of his telegram [illegible]:

"Honorable Arthur [illegible] Summerfield
Postmaster General
Post Office Department
Washington 25, D. C.

Has been brought to my attention that Post Office at Magazine, Alabama scheduled to be closed February 1st. Since last white family including the Postmistress has recently moved out of Magazine making it now an all-Negro community, suspect that decision to close has racial implications. Respectfully urge immediate investigation and report of your findings and suspension of scheduled closing until matter is cleared.

CHARLES C. DIGGS, JR.
Member of Congress."

50

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Postal Service Extended In Ala. Town

50

Mobile, Ala. (ANP) — Following vigorous protests by citizens' groups in this section, the Post Office Department held in abeyance the scheduled closing of the Magazine, Ala., post office, February 1. Magazine is now an all-Negro community.

P. 5

3-13-58

The action extended the Post Office service to February 28, pending an investigation to determine if the race question might have been subtly contained in the recommendation made to shut down the office there. The town is located about five miles from Mobile.

Louisville, Ky

A number of organizations in Magazine as well as Mobile charged that any recommendation made by Mobile Postmaster Taylor H. Henry or the Regional Magazine Post Office has been in the Mobile city limits for about 14 years, but no effort was made to abolish it until the community had only an all-Negro population.

Towns and Settlements - 1936

Arkansas.

All-Negro Town of Blackville, Ark., Has Own Schools, Store, Mill, Officers and Airplane

BLACKVILLE, Ark.—Boasting not only its own schools, church and store, this all-Negro community of 53 families also has its own mill and gin, with peace officers and an airplane and hangar.

Although its existence is probably unknown outside the state of Arkansas, Blackville is 45 years old. Its 6,000 acres in Jackson county are owned solely by Pickens Black from whom it took its name. Blackville is in the middle of the White river country, 10 miles east of Newport, Ark.

Black came to Arkansas in the 90's from Alabama where he was born several years before the Civil War began. Black, his brother and another man bought a 240-acre tract on the installment plan. Gradually Black's holdings were increased until his property reached its present size. All of his land is debt free.

Blackville is sometimes called the "little empire" and Black, the "ruler."

Is No "Swell Head"

Black is five feet, six inches tall and goes about the settlement wearing overalls, a jumper and a blue shirt with his old felt hat pulled far down on his head. His position in the community has failed to "swell his head."

He is always the first person in Jackson county to report at the office of the sheriff and collector to pay his taxes each year. His checks are acceptable by any merchant in the entire county without question.

Although he had no formal education, by reading and practical experience, he has become a wizard at mathematics and is well versed in English and literature.

Son a Licensed Pilot

His three sons all have completed a college course and have established two schools at Blackville. Pickens Black Jr., now 35 years old, is a licensed pilot. He owns the only airplane in the community and keeps it in a hangar where he often repairs other planes.

Before he bought his cabin plane, young Black himself built a plane but the government forbade him to fly it. It was sold to a southern aviator who wanted to use some of the ideas that Black's plan had.

The 53 families of Blackville are a peace-loving people. No major crime has been committed there in 10 years. And throughout the depression there has been no unemployment.

The Blackvillians raise cotton as their principal product. Corn, wheat, peas and hay are other crops raised. In the forests around the Blackville farms are all sorts of nuts and berries. For diversion, the citizens of Blackville hunt and fish.

The community is bordered on the east by the Cache river in which catfish, buffalo, carp, perch and bass abound. Most of the families raise chickens, turkeys, geese, ducks and other fowls on their farms.

Call 2-7-36

Kansas City

50 1955

BLACKVILLE, ARKANSAS

All-Negro Town Founder Dies at 90

NEWPORT, Ark. — (ANP)—A 90-year-old man who owned 9,000 acres and founded Blackville, an all-Negro community of about 800 persons, died here last week.

Pickens Black sr. built his estate from 40 acres he earned working as a farm hand some 70 years ago.

In addition to the 9,000 acres, he owned a rice dryer, cotton gin, mercantile store and extensive properties on his lands.

Despite his wealth, he once told his sons that his "richest moments and happiest times were when his holdings were small."

Coming here from Gadsden, Ala., when he was 18, he worked as a farm hand for two years, receiving as payment the 40 acres that formed the nucleus of his estate. At the outbreak of the first World War he owned a flour mill.

Black Dispatch
P. 5
Sat. 5-28-55
Oklahoma City
Okla.

Towns and Settlements—1924. Arkansas.

Negro Village Loses Marshal And "Only" Star

Little Rock, Ark., February 22.—Edmondson, a Crittenden county incorporated town of 300 or 400 population, composed almost entirely of negroes and having a negro mayor, town marshal and council, has recovered temporarily from what was described officially as "an embarassing and precarious condition" due to the alleged absence from the town of the marshal and the "official star."

Atlanta Constitution

The troubles of Edmondson were made known here today by Thaw W. Rowden, federal prohibition director for Arkansas who announced that Sam Gabriel Thompson, negro town marshal of Edmondson, had been arrested after several days search on charges of transporting whisky, that subsequently he was released on bond and now is performing his official duties as guardian of the peace.

The mayor and town council are said to have considered selection of a substitute town marshal during two or three days that neither Thompson nor the official badge were seen on the streets of Edmondson, but were restrained by the fact that such an official would have had no badge of authority.

2-23-24

Thompson was charged with having transported liquor on horseback from a still recently raided near Edmondson. He is to be tried along with several other negroes and Ben and Ray McClain, white men, at the next term of federal court at Jonesboro.

Edmondson, ark -

Towns and Settlements- 1928.

Arkansas

80

FIRE RAZES ENTIRE NEGRO COMMUNITY

Edmondson, Ark., Reported Destroyed by Blaze.

WAS UNIQUE NEGRO CITY

Flames, of Undetermined Origin, Started in Postoffice—Passing Memphis Motorists Aid the Fire Fighters.

One block, composing the entire business section of Edmondson, unique negro community located in Crittenden County, 15 miles west of Memphis on the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railway, w practically destroyed by a f which started from undetermin sources in the postoffice early ye terday afternoon, according to in complete telephone advices to Th Commercial.

Jake Dortch and George Fox the Union Chevrolet Company, Memphis, returning from a trip the nearby town of Neuhard tracted by the glare and smoke the conflagration, went to scene, where they joined their forts to those of local volun fire fighters. Estimated damage was $100,000, with virtually every business structure destroyed according to reports.

Edmondson, a community of about 200 inhabitants, is owned and operated exclusively by negroes. The town government is conducted by negro officials.

Commercial Appeal.
3-19-28
Memphis, Tenn.

Fire Destroys Section Of Arkansas Settlement

MEMPHIS, TENN., March 18.—(AP)—Fire of unknown origin destroyed practically the entire business section of Edmondson, Ark., [illegible] miles west of here today, according to reports received in Memphis tonight. The loss was estimated at $100,000. Edmondson is a negro settlement of approximately 200 inhabitants. Its entire slate of city officials are negroes.

Advertiser
3-19-28
Montgomery Ala.
3-19-28

Court Won't Incorporate Hensley, Ark.

The Courier (54)
Pittsburgh, Pa.
Sat, 10-25-47

LITTLE ROCK — (ANP) — Proceedings for the incorporation of Hensley, a farming community about twelve miles southeast of here, were dismissed last week by the judge of the Pulaski County Court upon the request of Glen G. Zimmerman, attorney for the petitioners. Residents of the area were warned that incorporation might bring about the withdrawal of county police protection and other county services limited to rural areas. Sat, 10-25-47

OTHER REASONS

Local observers, however, feel that there are other reasons for the dismissal. Hensley is practically an all-Negro settlement with many families owning their own homes. If the community were incorporated, the chances are that there would be a Negro mayor. Opposing whites are reported to have issued all sorts of threats to prevent incorporation.

Local citizens report a growing hostility and a tightening up by whites throughout the State since the release of final figures, showing a heavy increase in poll tax payments by Arkansas Negroes.

Hensley Community, [illegible]

Towns and Settlements-1927

Arkansas

78

NEGRO TOWNS SUFFER SEVERELY

McGHEE, Ark., May 12—(ANP)—McGhe,, Gould and Lae Village, these towns down here in the fertile lowlands of Arkansas, almost on the Louisiana lin,e have been cut off for days from the surrounding country because of the floods. These communities wit halmost a total Colored population have been engulfed by backwater from the rivers flowing toward the Mississippi. First, it rained for twenty-four straight days, on one of the days five and one half inches of water falling. Then came the backwater and only heroic work on the part of the men and women of these communities have saved great loss of life. A large number of livestock has perished according to Dr. Henry Avant, proprietor of the Colored drug store here. Farmers and their families are being cared for in the towns. McGhee and Goul d are prosperous Colored villages, the latter being named after Miss Helen Gould of the famous New York family.

News [illegible]

[illegible]

Ky

73-1941

ARKANSAS

190

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

ARKANSAS NEGRO COMMUNITY WANTS COLORED POST MASTER

Menifee Community
Arkansas

PINE BLUFF, Ark. — Asserting that the people of Menifee community were indignant over the failure of the United States Civil Service Commission to take some action in recommending the appointment of an eligible Negro to the postmastership, W. Harold Flowers, secretary of the Committee on Negro Organization, in a wire to Congressman David D. Terry, requested immediate action to the end that eligible candidates will not be deprived of just and democratic consideration.

Flowers took this action immediately following a visit to the C. N. O. office of the five prominent Menifee citizens, who promised their full support in the fight for a Negro postmaster in the all-Negro community. It was revealed that candidates who took the examination in June 1940, are only eligible for one year.

Unless some action is taken within a few days, Flowers announced that he will go to Washington for a conference with Civil Service Commission officials and the first assistant postmaster general, Ambrose O'Connell.

MAY 23 1941

The C. N. O. filed a protest with Washington officials concerning the appointment in February, and were promised immediate action. An investigation was made of complaints filed by Menifee residents concerning the service at the post office, and many changes have been noted.

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

Appointment of White Postmistress in Negro Town Inspires Action

73

Citizens in Fifth Congressional District Determined to Vote and Put Liberal Men in Public Office

PINE BLUFF, ~~Ark.~~ — (ANP)— The appointment of a white postmistress in the all-Negro town of Menifee, ~~Ark.~~, has aroused Negro citizens of Arkansas to the point where they are waging a vigorous campaign to get Negroes to pay their poll taxes and vote.

SEP 5 1941

The campaign is being launched in the eight counties of Pulaski, Conway, Faulkner, Franklin, Johnson, Perry, Pope and Yell. These counties make up the fifth Congressional district in which 50,000 Negro citizens live.

The Committee on Negro Organizations has issued a call to the residents in these eight counties to pay the $1 poll tax fee by October and thus qualify to vote.

NEGROES' OWN FAULT

The failure of the 50,000 Negroes in the fifth congressional district to pay their poll tax and vote is said to be strictly the fault of Negro citizens themselves. In this district they could vote if they chose and could name the man who represents the district in congress. While it would be improbable that a Negro could be elected, at least a liberal, decent white candidate could be named.

The appointment of a white postmistress in Menifee is the straw which it is hoped is breaking the camel's back and is arousing Negroes to the point where they will bestir themselves and pay their poll tax.

"The appointment of this postal official for Menifee is truly a blackout for democracy," said W. Harold Flowers, secretary of the Committee on Negro Organizations.

"The appointment was made after Negro residents had exhausted every means known to secure the appointment of one of three Negro eligibles whose names were on the qualified list as a result of a competitive examination."

SEP 5 1941

250 PETITIONS SIGNED

Mrs. Letha E. Malone, white, was sworn in office by Prof. J. C. McDaniel, a member of the Committee on Negro Organization, after having been one of the many persons to urge participation on the part of Negroes in taking civil service examinations. Regarded as a man of influence in the community, many of the residents believe that his opposition to a Negro postmaster was responsible in a large measure for the appointment of Mrs. Malone.

A petition signed by more than 250 citizens of the community, urging Congressman David D. Terry to appoint a Negro postmaster was filed after it was learned that the appointment was under the sole jurisdiction of the postoffice department, due to the fact that her salary was less than $500 per annum. Among the signers of the petition were three white persons.

"Prior to the re-classification of the office," Mr. Flowers said, "the civil service commission held an examination, which I am informed was participated in by Mrs. Malone. Only three Negroes were on the eligible list and no white candidates. A year passed before an appointment was made, and Mrs. Malone served as temporary postmistress. Even after she had taken the examination and failed to qualify, the appointment has been given to her. On the eligible list were Mrs. Sadie E. Woods, Miss Bernice Mabin, and John Rochelle.

SEP 5 1941

TWO ELIGIBLES FOR OFFICE

"One Sunday afternoon, I waited underneath a cherry tree while Negro citizens solicited funds in the community to pay expenses of a trip to Washington where a conference was held with postoffice department officials. It was discovered that Mrs. Sadie Woods had been disqualified, leaving only two persons eligible for the office.

"It was stated that another examination would be held, but in the meantime, the receipts of the office had decreased and so it was necessary to re-classify the office. The appointment, when the office pays less than $500, may be made despite the fact that there remained two Negro eligibles.

"This plain and simple case of discrimination because of color is regarded by an overwhelming majority of the residents of the community as a challenge. These citizens who now realize more than ever their own importance in politics, are determined to do all that they can to make democracy real.

CAMPAIGN BEGINS

"Because of their interest in and support of the C. N. O. program, I have directed a campaign to bring out the vote in the fifth congressional district. The direct supervision of this campaign will be under W. L. Jarrett, Morrilton undertaker and well-known CNO vice chairman.

"Every facility will be used to publicize to the citizens of the district and friends of democracy everywhere, this awful blackout of democracy.

SEP 5 1941

"'The American way of expressing choice of persons and government rests in the use of the ballot, and we call upon every Negro citizen in the counties of Pulaski, Conway, Faulkner, Franklin, Johnson, Perry, Pope, and Yell to pay the $1 poll tax fee by October. There are more than 50,000 Negro citizens in this district, and active interest on their part will yield tremendous results. Today, as never before, we must discover the real meaning of democracy first, and then help to decide whether or not it is a way of life best for all the peoples of the world."

Towns and Settlements - 1921.

Arkansas

PEACE COLONY AND ITS WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY FOR MEMBERS OF THE RACE.

Times Plain Dealer

By Henry F. Arnold, Editor of the Times Plain Dealer, Birmingham, Ala.

2/12/21

In the southeast section of Arkansas located on the Cotton Belt railroad, there is a growing colony, owned and operated by members of the race that will present a surprise to the itenerant who happens to perchance visit Cleveland County, Arkansas. In nineteen hundred and nineteen a member of the race with the vision of Booker Washington journeyed to Cleveland county in quest of a place of abode where he and his family might have a place to live in peace and happiness the balance of their lives. Being a seer he immediately took advantage of the wonderful opportunity that the place presented and settled and began to interest others until today the place has become one of the garden spots in America for Negro people. The name of this distinguished gentleman has been immortalized throughout Arkansas and abroad for the great work that he is doing in building this wonderful colony, so we take great pleasure in presenting to our readers Dr. J. A. Patterson, the founder of Peace colony, formerly known as Clio, Ark., who has done a great work and who is making Peace colony the garden spot for Negroes of America. We would not be fair to the public did we fail to detail the facts of this growing colony as they are, hence we are giving the facts after a careful investigation by a representative who has journed out in this wonderful field with its oil wells and all other facilities that tend to give men and women who are looking for an opportunity, a chance to become prosperous and rich as the colony is surrounded by some of the best farm land in the south.

Villages and Railroad Points.

Negroes in the Peace Colony now practically own and control the stations of Kedron (Clio), Peace, Dwight, Pool, Saline and Draughton, with several railroad sidings. These points are on the St. Louis Southwestern (Cotton Belt) Railroad, and are surrounded by thousands of acres of fine land. Each point may become a prosperous Negro town.

There is no place in America where Negroes control so much territory along a great railroad as here in the Peace Colony, along the main line of the St. Louis Southwestern (Cotton Belt) Railroad.

Business Opportunity For the Right Kind of Men.

Out in Peace colony there is a wonderful opportunity for the right kind of man in the mercantile field. This growing section that is sure to attract the farmer from other states will eventually become the leading Negro town in America and some man who has capital to invest will do well to take advantage of the wonderful opportunity that is now presnted. The thing that attracts the attention of the iternerant who happens to visit Peace colony is that no white man is allowed to purchase lands or own anything in the settlement, hence the Negro is safe and secure.

An Opportunity For a Colored Physician.

Peace colony is in close proximity to El Dorado, Akransas, with oil wells equally as valuable as any in that section and is sure to become the gateway to Pine Bluff and Texarkana, Texas, and the Negro physician that is in quest of an open field where results are unquestionable will do well to settle there. We may give you more details of this wonderful place later that is sure to become the garden spot of America for Negro people.

"Peace Colony," formerly Clio, Arkansas

Towns - 1914

AS SEEN BY OUR SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE ON HIS TRIP THROUGH THE IMPERIAL AND SAN JOAQUIN VALLEYS.

(Continued from Our Issue of October 4th.)

Bowls

Oakland Sunshine

10-13

Leaving Allensworth we went direct to Bowls. The town and settlement is on the main line of the Santa Fe R. R. ten miles south of Fresno and four miles from Fowler, a point on the main line of the Southern Pacific R. R. In and around Bowls are located about one hundred Afro-American families, owning as pretty ranches and as comfortable homes as will be found in any community in the State.

The most of them came West about twelve years ago, having had experience as farmers. They have plainly shown that they were never members of those disgusting organizations, of which all races furnish membership, known as the United Brothers of Talk Much, or the Fraternal Sisters of the "Do Nothing." They evidently came West to assist in building up the section of the country in which they live. They believed that if the race was to have men in comfortable circumstances, that they must turn their attention to farming, that if they were to have men who might wield a powerful influence in different communities they must have the sturdy cultivator of the soil.

These thrifty families went to Bowls with limited capital, secured employment on ranches in the vicinity, saved their earnings and purchased land, set out vines and trees during their idle moments, and today the land that they purchased in its raw state twelve years ago for $25.00 per acre is worth from $300 to $350 per acre. The farmer shacks that once sheltered them are now being used as barns for their horses and cows, and they have since erected from six to seven rooms modern houses with all of the latest improvements. They raise a sufficient number of hogs which furnish a meat supply. Keep from two to three cows, from which they receive all the milk and butter necessary for family use, and an over surplus that is fed to the chickens and hogs. Turkeys, chickens, guineas and ducks in large numbers can be seen playing around their door.

They own from twenty to eighty acres each on which is bearing vines and trees and alfalfa, with a couple of acres reserved for garden purposes that nets each family a nice income. The water problem there is adjusted as each purchase carries with it a perpetual water right which is furnished by a gravity system, fed by the falling rain in winter, and the melting snows in the summer.

These farmers have organized for the purpose of assisting those who are worthy, and desiring to settle among them, by giving them employment on their ranches and otherwise assisting them to get a start in life. They have a general store, a church with a splendid membership, and other fraternal organizations. They children are in school, and their aged are taken care of. In short they have by forethought, industry, self-sacrifice and perseverence, solved the so-called race problem in this particular section of the State.

We noticed about twenty members of the race employed by one Mr. W. J. Pilkinton on his ranch, picking peaches and grapes. His brother is an electrician, and is employed by the Telephone company. He is also the proprietor of the village store and owns a 14-acre ranch. Mr. Pilkinson, Sr., and wife lives on their ranch surrounded by their sons and daughters and their families, a happy and contented group. These aged people are of the old school, at the entrance of whose home says to the stranger, Welcome, and across whose hearthstone seems to be inscribed the word, Plenty, and whose prayers go up day and night for the betterment of the human family in general.

From Fowler to Mamouth, a distance of seven miles, are scattered these thrifty families. Mr. C. E. Orr, formerly a railroad porter, and Mr. E. J. Abenathy, formerly of Fresno, own valuable ranches and are employers of labor. They are factors in all that the word implies in this growing valley.

Twelve years ago there came to Bowls a family consisting of Mother, Father and four chudren, the ages of the children ranging from 12 to 1 years, arriving the latter part of May. They at once pitched their tent a fruit orchard, each of them working steady ninety days, not even stopp on the seventh. At the expiration of those ninety days they had ear $900, with which they purchased twenty acres of land. The father mother for the next three years worked for the vinyardist during the ter, while the children were in school, repeating the fruit picking act in summer. That family who twelve years ago did not have a dollar that they could call their own is worth today $15,000.00.

En route to the Imperial Valley recently we met our old friend, Mr. George Clark of S. F. He was en route to San Bernardino in search of a future home. He asked our opinion as to the best place to locate. We advised him to visit the places he had in mind, but by all means to go to Bowls and look around after visiting the places he had intended. He went to Bowls, seeing what other members of the race had accomplished, and the future possibilities of the place. He purchased a 23-acre ranch on which he and his family in the future will reside. We will more fully relate what these people have accomplished in the December edition.

From Bowls we went to Tulara, where we found a number of people from Allensworth, who had secured profitable employment. Mr. and Mrs. Whiting of Allensworth, parents of Miss Eva Whiting, one of the teachers of Allensworth, were spending the summer here. Mr. Whiting is an electrician and is employed by the Tulara County Water Co. Mrs. Whitting is a fashionable dressmaker. The daughter, aside from being a competent school teacher, is a hair dresser and understands manicuring. They would be valuable acquisitions to any community.

Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Johnson are comfortably housed in their new modern home, which was recently built. Mr. Johnson is well known around the bay. He is a brother of Mrs. Brown of San Rafael. His wife, to whom he was married two years ago, had just returned from Marysville where she had been the guest of her mother, Mrs. Pogue.

Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell, who have been residents of Tulara for 24 years have purchased a valuable home in a choice section of the town. Mrs. Mitchell will attend the Baptist Association in Marysville, stopping en route at Oakland. We met Rev. H. McKenna in Fowler; he was engaged as weigher in the largest packing house in town. He informed us tha he would attend the Annual Conference of the M. E. Church of whic he is a member. His work at Fowler has been a success.

We noticed working in the packing houses at Fowler, forty or fift Afro-Americans. Mr. Jordon Young and his son Rube Wysinger wer busily engaged gathering the crops.

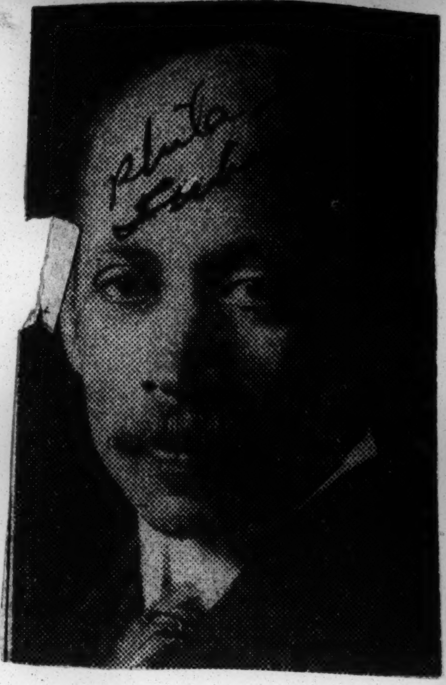
At Madara we met Mr. John Moore, formerly of Visalia. He is janito of the two banks and has considerable other work. Mr. and Mrs. W. T Waterford who are old settlers of Madara, own valuable property consisting of five large lots and a beautiful home a short distance from the hear of the city. The leading hotels of Madara and Merced have colored help.

Phila - Tribune

12/20/13

Philadelphia Tribune

Hotel, Store and Residence of W. A. Davis, Lincoln, Md. Mr. Davis will be remembered by Philadelphians as the proprietor of a grocery store at 16th and Bainbridge Sts., a trustee of Holy Trinity Baptist Church and an active member of the society of Knights of Pythias.


Phila Trib

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provement
vania Ave.
Mr. Callow
for a few days in the interest of
Lincoln and may be reached at the
Tribune Building, 526 So. 16th St.,
or at 909 So. 18th Street

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Towns and Settlement - 1936

California

147

Town Named Landon, Cal.

Settlers of All Races Welcome in New City

Call
7-17-36
Kansas City Mo.

LANDON, Cal.—This town of several thousand acres, established recently by Negroes, has been named Landon, after Governor Alf M. Landon, Republican candidate for president.

Sidney P. Dones and Jim Erwing, 4421½ Central avenue, Los Angeles, founders of the town said that their aim is to have a city founded upon the constitution of the United States which the Republican nominee advocates in its entirety.

There are several thousand acres in this town site and members of all races are invited to settle in this community.

Mr. Dones says that Landon Cal., will be one of the cosmopolitan towns in America, the ideals of which will be based upon the principles of equality for all according to the laws of the great state of California.

Republican rallies will be held at this town site during the presidential campaign.

Governor Landon will be invited to visit this town site if, and when he visits California.

Landon is located 50 miles from Los Angeles, just off Foot Hill boulevard, near Ettakanda, an hour and half drive from Los Angeles, 15 minutes from San Bernardino, 25 minutes from Redland 30 minutes from Riverside and one hour's drive from Pasadena.

All-Race Town In Cal. Named For Gov. Landon

Defender
7-18-36
Chicago Ill.

LOS ANGELES, July 17—Almost simultaneously with the action of the state legislature of South Carolina in revoking the charter of an all-Race city in that state known as Maryville, because whites objected to living under a government controlled by blacks, a new Race city, Landon, Calif., named for the Republican candidate for President of the United States, was getting started.

The new town, consisting of several thousand acres, is located 50 miles from this city, just off Foot Hill boulevard, near Ettawanda. It is 15 minutes from San Bernardino; 26 minutes from Redland; 30 minutes from Riverside and an hour's drive from Pasadena.

In explaining the naming of the town, Sidney P. Dones and Jim Erwing, founders and managers of the project, said:

"We called it Landon because it is founded upon the Constitution of the United States which the Republican candidate advocates in its entirety. It is our hope that it will become one of the most cosmopolitan towns in the country. Although we hope the town to be settled principally by Negroes, everyone is welcome. It is to be the ideal town with no prejudice and equal rights for all."

Governor Landon has already been invited to visit and inspect the town should he come to California during his campaign.

Victorville in San Bernardino County, Calif., is a Negro town with a population of 200.

10-5-36 Rec

Poverty Conquered

Bell Mountain Folk Find Magic Formula For Living Together

The Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

(67) Sat, 12-14-46

By HILDERGARD LEVEL

Behind a lonely bell-shaped mountain in the Mojave Desert of California, a Negro settlement has grown, and while developing discovered the weight and effect of unity.

The settlement, nestled against Bell Mountain, lies five miles beyond Victorville, the post village of San Bernardino. Each family owns a piece of land and is in the process of building a home. Some have erected just one room. In there they sleep and cook and eat and entertain. Others have finished the whole structure and completed two or three rooms inside. The women keep house, tend the chickens and the cattle. The men work in town and do the building at the end of the week. It's slow going.

NO CONVENIENCES

No one owns electric lights, nor a sewer system. There is no water. The water must be hauled from town. To dig a well costs $1,000 or more. No one can afford that much. The struggle for the simplest needs is as hard as that of the old-time pioneers.

The settlers reach their homes by bumpy desert trails. In spite of individual pleading, the county would not build a road nor send the school bus for the children.

One day one of the settlers had a bright idea. "Why don't we form a club?" he said. "They can't ignore us if we act together." The idea was quickly taken up. That same night the club was formed and named Bell Mountain District Improvement Association.

LEARNED FAST

The families met once a week and each took turns at playing host. The one and two-room cabins bulged with people. They sat on floors and window sills and crowded into narrow hallways. At first nobody knew how properly to conduct a meeting. But no one was the least concerned, for in the process of doing, they learned fast.

A fund was collected. With part of the money they bought a well rig. Mutually owned, it goes from home to home, and soon each will own his well.

They plan to rent a tractor next and plow a road across the desert into Victorville. This way they aim to prove to the county their need for a road. And they hope that the county will follow their lead by finishing up the job with asphalt.

They have filed a petition requesting rural electricity. It will mean to the community, beside proper lighting, the use of all electric tools, and, the housewife's drudge-reliever, a washing machine.

YOUTH PROGRAM

One of the women invited the children of the community to spend their Saturday morning in her home. She teaches them how to paint and draw and make lampstands of discarded kitchen jars. The children love it.

A settler donated a piece of his land on which to build a community center. The people gladly chip in with the labor and money for the material. They are looking forward to having a place where they can comfortably hold their meetings and celebrate weddings and holidays.

Hildegard Level is a young Hollywood writer whose articles appear in such magazines as CORONET and READER'S SCOPE. Mrs. Level's ability to find material which is different, and the unique approach to her subject, give her stories a startling freshness.

The settlers belcaguered the town again with pleas to send the bus for their children. This time, however, the pleas came from the united families. One morning, when the sun was still behind Bell Mountain the bus drove up. A load of little children went to school. Their mothers smiled, contented. The magic formula had worked.

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BIG NEGRO COLONIES WORRY WEST COAST

Times

New York, N.Y.

San Francisco Bay Area, With 100,000, Ponders Housing and Unemployment

By GEORGE STREATOR

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 3—The wartime migration of more than 75,000 Negroes into this city and the East Bay area, with the prospect of many more, has posed here, as elsewhere, the problem of housing and unemployment, many leaders said today.

But the leadership itself is difficult to define, although this city now presents a typical Negro "ghetto" picture, in terms of the number of clubs, churches, councils and fraternal organizations. In addition, there sprang up during the war a multitude of "inter-racial or inter-cultural groups, some from the "left wing," others from orthodox organizations of church liberals. Times 5-4-47

There are said to be about 100,000 Negroes in the entire Bay region today, although the census of 1940 revealed only 20,000. The rapid expansion of war industry, particularly the growth of the shipbuilding industry, drew Negro colonies to Oakland, Berkeley, Vallejo and this city.

During the war, various pressure groups arose to contest alleged discrimination in the AFL trade unions. Most of the charges were filed against the Boilermakers International, which set up separate auxiliaries for Negroes, who, before a series of California court decisions, could pay their dues but could not vote, nor participate in union affairs.

Considerable rancor was thus engendered on the union question, and the word "integration" found its widest usage among Negroes. They sought to be included in the regular affairs of the labor community, and much pressure was put to bear on the shipbuilding companies to make upgrading on the job certain for Negro and other non-white races.

Besides the orthodox National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and the latecomer, the Urban League, more than eighty of these civil-rights organizations entered the field, either to influence or advise, if not if not to form the "patterns" for to form the "patterns" for Negro participation in community life.

Today the picture is blending with the most usual patterns of Negro life. In spite of the efforts made out here to chart a different course, all local Negro settlements are the same as the originals in New York, Chicago or St. Louis.

Dr. William McKinley Thomas who moved to this city in 1945 after service with the Army Medical Corps, was appointed last year to the local housing authority. A graduate of Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tenn., he completed his work in Kansas City, Mo.

Dr. Thomas is critical of the "leftists," and accuses them of using the Negro out here to further ends that are inimical to the race's welfare. He is opposed to "jim crow" housing, and will try to change the local policy of segregation in permanent public housing.

The American Council on Race Relations, with headquarters in Chicago, and financed by the Rosenwald Fund and Marshall Field, has announced it will suspend activities out here. The director, Laurence I. Hewes sailed for Japan to enter Federal employ. The Negro associate, Matt Crawford, is now employed by the National Negro Congress. Times 5-4-47

Seaton W. Manning, director of the local Urban League, reported growing unemployment, and said that half the Negro unemployment is found among veterans.

Negro Colonies
in San Francisco
Bay area

50 1961 EDMONTON (ALBERTA, CANADA)

Amber Valley, Alberta Canada

Town now prosperous, but may die in 25 years

The Afro-American

Sat. 11-4-61

P. 2

Baltimore Md

EDMONTON, Alberta, Canda—Out of 500 pioneers who settled Amber Valley 51 years ago, only about 300 residents now populate the colony— and the number is steadily decreasing.

The original settlers who came to Canada from the Deep South in 1910 are now in their 70's, and their sons and daughters are leaving the farming community —hacked from the wilderness —for the big city to work as professionals.

Amber Valley lies between Pine Creek and the Athabasca River some 100 miles from here. The nearest big town is 25 miles away.

* * *

JEFFERSON D. EDWARDS, 72, one of the largest landholders, recalled that "it was pretty discouraging" in the early days when the colony was whacking the town out of the bush and making it into the prosperous community it is today.

The pioneers came to Canada after a Canadian Government agent distributed promotion phamplets promising free land and no jim crow to immigrants and colored Americans.

Within the next two years, Mr. Edwards recalls, two trainloads of colored Americans from Oklahma traveled cut-rate to Winnipeg, then to Edmonton, and 97 miles on foot to make a new home.

* * *

"WE TRIED TO teach our children not to be ashamed of thier color," said Mrs. Edwards, "but we taught them that as members of a minority they must have self-discipline and not make issues of small incidents."

Numbered among the hardships of the settlers from the sunny South were 40 below zero winters, the making of their own clothes and tools, and living off the land.

With the children leaving, Mr. Edwards said:

"It seems that now the old folks are ready to live, they are ready to die. I'm afraid that 25 years from now, all that we worked for will be lost."

NEGRO COLONY THRIVES

50

Refugees From Oklahoma in 1910 Settled in Canada

Times

ATHABASCA, Alta. (Canadian Press)—Here on the northern fringe of Alberta's rolling farm country, a small group of Negroes has established a flourishing community.

Dec. 13-24-49

The Negroes fled to Alberta from their Oklahoma homes in 1910. Refugees from racial discrimination there, they literally carved their settlement out of what was once a wilderness.

The original handful built their homes in the heavily wooded valleys that wind in and out of the Athabasca area. Now their settlement numbers 400, and the waving heads of wheat give ample evidence of the prosperity of the community.

New York N.Y.

On the average, each farmer owns a quarter section, but some own up to three sections. They have built their own schools, churches, and even have a home for the aged. Most of the Negroes are Methodists.

Discrimination is a forgotten word around Athabasca. "We don't even know we are dark until we look in a glass," is the way one farmer put it.

Canada

Towns and Settlements-1929

Canada

100

PROF. WILLIAM KING AND NORTH BUXTON

Dawn of Tomorrow

(By Prof. Fred Landon, University of Western Ontario.)

London, Canada

12/20/29

Vol. V No. 6

Kent County, Negro Colony established by Rev Wm King in Upper Canada.

The most important and also the nost permanent Negro Colony in Upper Canada was that established in Kent County by Rev. William King and known as the Buxton or Elgin Association settlement. King, a young Irish clergyman, married the daughter of a Louisiana planter and after her death and the death of his father-in-law he became the owner of more than a dozen slaves. His religious principles forbidding him to dispose of these people by sale, he determined to bring them to Canada and to devote himself to their improvement. A non-sectarian body known as the Elgin Association was formed in 1850 and this body secured from the government of the day a grant of 9000 acres of land in Kent County. This was divided into fifty-acre farms upon which Mr. King's own Negroes and others who might join them were to be placed. The rapid growth of this colony is recorded in its annual reports. By 1852 there were 75 families in the settlement, which number doubled by 1854. A representative of the New York Tribune who visited the colony in 1857 found there 200 families or 800 souls. More than 1000 acres of land had been cleared by that time, while on 200 other acres the trees had been felled. The industries in the settlement apart from farming included a steam saw mill, a brickyard, a pearl ash factory as well as blacksmith, carpenter and shoe shops. The two schools, one for boys and one for girls, had an enrollment of 140.

Striking testimony to the success of the undertaking was given in 1864 by Dr. Samuel G. Howe, who came to Canada as representative of the Freed Men's Inquiry Commission to investigate the condition of the free Negroes in Canada. Concerning his visit to the Elgin Association settlement, Dr. Howe in his report said:

"Buxton is certainly a very interesting place. Sixteen years ago it was a wilderness. Now, good highways are laid out in every dirertion through the forest; and by their side standing back thirty-three feet from the road, are about two hundred cottages, all built on the same pattern all looking neat and comfortable. Around each one is a cleared space of several acres, which is well cultivated. The fences are in good order; the barns seem well filled; and cattle and horses and pigs and poultry abound. There are signs of industry and thrift and comfort everywhere; signs of intemperance, of idleness, of want, nowhere. There is no tavern and no groggery, but there is a chapel and a school-house.

"Most interesting of all are the inhabitants. Twenty years ago, most of them were slaves, who owned nothing, not even their children. Now they own themselves, they own their houses and farms, and they have their wives and children about them. They are enfranchised citizens of a government which protects their rights. They have the great essentials for human happiness, 'something to love something to do and something to hope for'; and if they are not happy it is their own fault."

Buxton, more than any other Negro Colony established prior to the Civil War, has preserved its identity and is even today a distinctly Negro Community. After the Civil War some of the Negroes returned to the United States, and it would appear that some also removed to Haiti, but those who remained were sufficient in number to continue the individual character of the colony. Rev. William King lived at Buxton until the late 'eighties when failing health compelled his removal to Chatham where he died in 1895.

Name Town for A. S. Grier

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — In appreciation of the great service rendered the community, a settlement, here, has been named in honor of A. S. Grier, called "Grier Town."

A. S. GRIER

Mr. Grier, a businessman here for the past thirty years, was once in the mercantile business. Today, he is the owner of the Grier-Thompson Funeral Home.

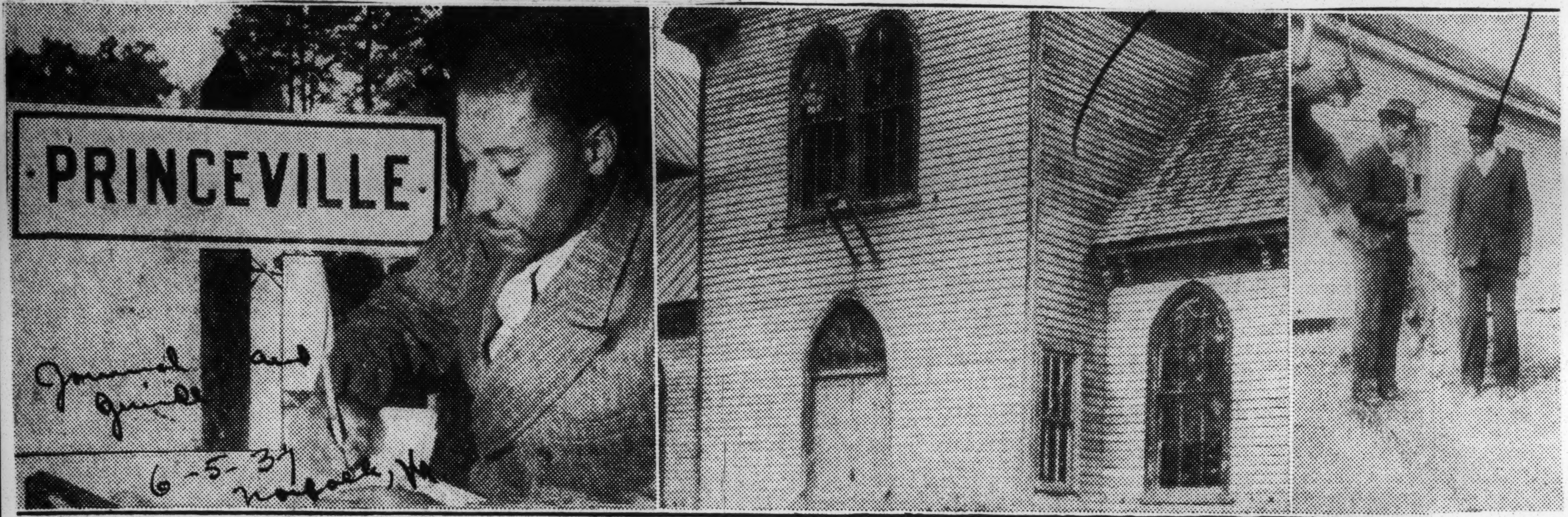
According to this veteran businessman, success lies in hard work, fair play, and recognition of the rights of others. In the community in which he resides, Mr. Grier is regarded as a model citizen. He takes an active part in the civic, social, and religious life of the community.

Afro-American

Baltimore, Md.

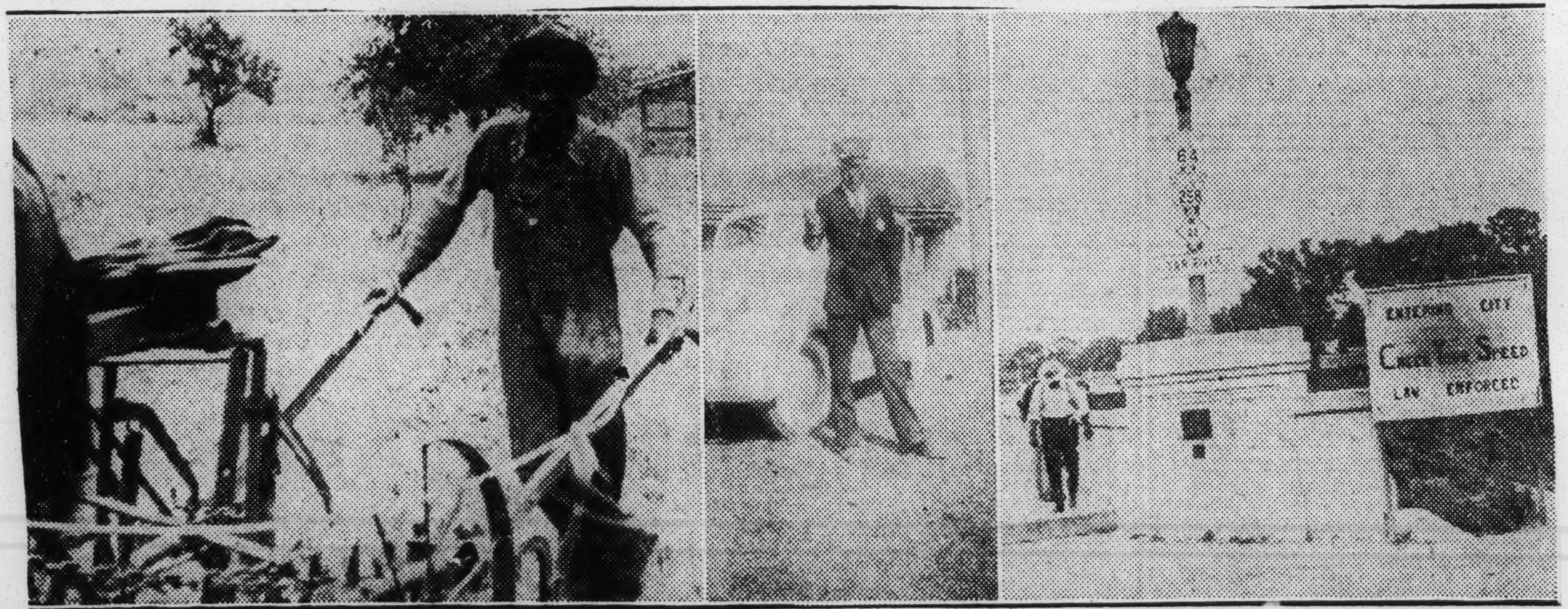
Towns and Settlements-1937 North Carolina

THIS IS WHAT HAPPENED WHEN THE GUIDE CANDID CAMERAMAN CLICKED HIS SHUTTER ON PRINCEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA'S ALL-COLORED TOWN



Journal and Guide
6-5-37
Norfolk, Va.

Basking in the distinction of being citizens of North Carolina's only all-colored town, residents of Princeville, though they have no chamber of commerce to boost its merits, display a pardonable pride in their little city, which lies just across the Tar river from Tarboro. A black and white sign greets the motorist as he cruises into town. Twenty-nine year old Glennie Mathewson, the town's mayor is shown at his desk in the second photo from left. The ten-teacher elementary school seen in third photo provides educational facilities for young Princevillians through the eighth grade. The two gentlemen pictured left to right, W. R. Mathewson, tax

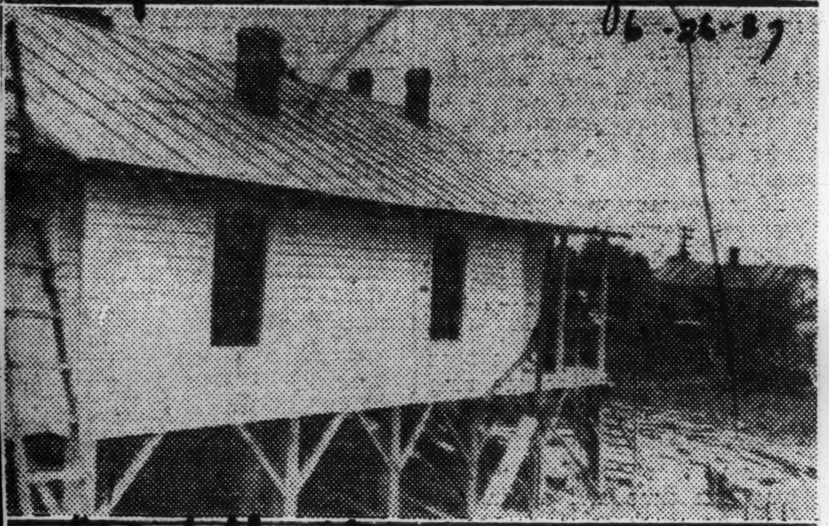


collector and Lonnie Mooring, city treasurer, are bonded and handle all of the city's revenue. One of the producers of that revenue, Denom Cotton is shown in fifth photo, while Chief of Police Walter Barnes assumes a belligerent pose in the sixth picture. The chief must remove his uniform before crossing bridge shown in seventh photo, which leads to Tarboro, under an ordinance passed by the Tarboro city council. Tarboro has no colored policemen, but the state legislature ruled last year that its white officers could cross over into Princeville to capture any fleeing prisoners. (Journal and Guide Photos).

A NEW PRINCEVILLE HOME

Journal and Guide

6-26-37



Norfolk Va.

Faith in the future of Princeville, North Carolina's all-colored town of 611 inhabitants, 15 of whom are white, is seen in the erection of this new home near the edge of the city's limits. The house borders the Tar River which separates the town from its neighbor, Tarboro. (Journal and Guide Photo).

50 1949

North Carolina

Colored Town Gets Its First Garbage Truck

Journal and Guide

By ANNIE MAY DANCY

Sept. 9-10-49

PRINCEVILLE, N. C. — This town, chartered in 1885, is one of the few in the United States governed by non-white people.

During its 64 years of history, all town officials have been colored, but it is reported that those of the year 1949, have given Princeville the most progressive administration.

Norfolk, Va.

The town hall recently has been renovated for the first time in 64 years, and the town has secured its first truck for hauling garbage. The vehicle went on active duty on Aug. 30. The next a[illegible]f the officials is to better the [illegible]dition of the streets.

The 1949 town commissioners are: J. E. Bridgers, J. R. Bullock, L. V. Brown, and J. A. Matthewson, who have been responsible for the radical changes in the town.

Princeville, N.C.

CENSUS IN NEGRO TOWN

Princeville,N.C.-(ANP) The only all Negro governed town in North Carolina, Princeville has had a population jump from 818 to 920 in the last ten (10) years according to a preliminary Census report.

Defender
Sat. 5-13-50
Chicago, Ill.

50 1965

SEPT,

PRINCEVILLE- (NORTH CAROLINA)

281

'Not Too Much' Prosperity Seen In All-Negro Town

The Montgomery Advertiser

P. 40

PRINCEVILLE, N.C. (AP) — The future is looking brighter for Princeville, now rounding out 80 years as one of the oldest all-Negro towns in the United States.

Strictly speaking, Princeville is not all-Negro, just about 98 per cent. But it was incorporated as a Negro town in 1885, and its mayor, councilmen and police officers in 1965 are all Negroes.

Jour 9-2-65

There is "not too much" prosperity in Princeville now, Mayor Ray Matthewson concedes, yet he looks for the town to blossom like a rose.

He and all of Princeville's 900 citizens are pinning great hopes on an Army Engineer project to stop the Tar River from flooding the town. Authorized to begin any time now, the plan is to build a 2.5-mile dike along the river's south bank.

The project is to be completed next summer and Matthewson expects that from then on this eastern North Carolina community will be able to show the world what an all-Negro town can do.

Montgomery, Ala.

"Everything should fall into place then," he said in an interview. "It's fear of the river that has held us back.

"We have high water practically every year, and every five or six years things get so bad that some families have to leave.

"With the river taken care of, there'll be building and remodeling, and people coming back instead of leaving. We'll have running water in the houses, too, and maybe the government will give us a grant of some type for sewage disposal."

Princeville in the daytime consists mostly of children and old people. Most adults are at work on farms or in the city of Tarboro—population about 8,500—across the river.

Three years ago, Matthewson, who then had been mayor for seven years, went on a hunt for industry.

"We haven't had success about industries yet," he said. Publicity given to the hunt did bring job offers from as far away as Ohio, but no plants came to Princeville.

But Princeville has accomplished much, as the state legislature has formally recognized. The legislature in 1963 passed a resolution declaring:

"Whereas much has been accomplished by virtue of the civic pride and the ambition of the citizens and municipal officials, now therefore be it resolved that the General Assembly congratulate the town of Princeville."

All the streets in Princeville are paved, and the town renovated an old school building into a combination town hall-recreation center. Three acres around the hall were cleared for picnics and recreation.

There is no fire department—Tarboro upplies trucks when needed—but there is a bucket brigade which uses pumps and wells and helps to keep fire losses low.

The two-man police force has earned a reputation for courtesy and helpfulness. There is little crime to contend with.

"We do have some stop-sign violations," Mayor Matthewson said.

Two main highways, U.S. 64 and U.S. 258, intersect at Princeville and tourist trade helps the economy.

The mayor, a tall man of 50, with a closely trimmed mustache and an easy way of talking runs a general store near the intersection. It sells everything from ice cubes to electrical appliances.

Divorced, Matthewson has six children: two in New York City, one teaching school in Danbury, Conn., one attending Hampton Institute in Virginia, and two in high school here.

He lives a block from the store in a white cottage, and is ready to talk about Princeville at home or at work.

"This place used to be called Freedom Hill," he said. "It was set up by free Negroes, and Negroes freed by slave owners, who moved to this side of the river.

"There was no place for them to live in Tarboro unless it was on the premises of white families, in the back yard, and they felt it was better to live on this side."

The 1965 relationship between the white citizens of Tarboro and Negro citizens of Princeville is good, Matthewson said.

He called it a "nice working and living arrangement, no racial trouble at all."

Last October the Ku Klux Klan did have a meeting in a field about a mile from Princeville. "Nobody paid any attention to it," he said.

Even though he is the head of a sizable Negro community that has long been voting, Matthewson hesitated about giving advice to Deep South Negroes now getting the vote through federal action.

"Their issues are a little bit different from ours," he said.

But for Negroes as a whole, he advised: "Vote for the best people, the most qualified people. Pick the ones you think would be the best, don't just vote as a bloc."

He said of areas where Negroes make up a major part of the population: "If they show strength and willingness to vote, they'll get recognition."

Towns and Settlements - 1938

North Carolina.

Rutherfordton, N. C., News
July 14, 1938

Uree Community Home Of Prosperous Colored Colony

INFLUENCE OF SCHOOL FOUNDED THIRTY YEARS AGO HAS RESULTED IN LASTING GOOD

Engaged In Farming And Trucking; Many Are Prominent In Business And Profession In Other States. Have Modern Homes.

Scattered over a group of rocky, red hills, rising several hundred feet above the small streams which flow east and south from the Hickory Nut mountains on the border of Rutherford, Buncombe and McDowell counties, is a colony of colored people whose social and economic problems have been solved by the application of the principles of frugality, industry, and clean living. An explanation of the manner in which these people have escaped the common ills that aflict almost every community from time to time constitutes a most interesting and romantic story.

Early History

Some time prior to the American Revolution George and Johnson Ledbetter; George Whitesides, and George W. Logan came to this section from Virginia. George Ledbetter built a grist mill on Cove creek near the southern end of Montford's Cove. His brother, Johnson, settled on the same stream some ten miles to the southeast; while Whitesides occupied the valley of Buffalo Creek and Logan settled on the lands now covered by Lake Lure at Chimney Rock. All these men must have been high-type citizens, as their names appear prominently in the history of that period and many of their decendants are well-known business and professional men of the present time. They all owned slaves, and after they were freed, gave them land for home sites and small farms, insisting that they settle down in that community. The former slaves from these families, together with a family of "freeman"—afterwards taking the name of Freeman—soon intermarried and formed a distinct colony of their own.

Had Vision

This colony was scattered over aproximately 3,000 acres of poor land on which they found it difficult to make a living for some 40 years. While the evils attending the establishment of the "Freedman's Bureau" and the glowing promise of "forty acres and a mule" during the reconstruction days had no direct effect on this little settlement back among the hills, it goes without saying that during the four decades immediately following the War Between the States this little colony made little, if any, progress towards economic independence or the establishment of any sort social and religious life. However, some of the older darkies, who still felt the influence of their former masters, saw the need of educational and religious training for their young people and were not content, as most colored people were, with a bare existence.

Among those who were most interested in the educational and religious life of the community was "Old Man Will Ledbetter." His religious fervor was remarkable, even for one of his race. He told of spending whole nights in prayer, and of seeing visions of fine churches and scohols for his people. He is said to have seen visions of cars and trucks going over his native hills long before the advent of the automobile. Most of the colored people accepted the lack of religious and educational facilities as a matter of course. The one little log church was supplied by an illiterate preacher who was not at all averse to an occasional dram, and the young "bucks" of the community had begun to partake of the potent moonshine for which the near-by white settlement was noted, and it seemed that they were destined to grow up with the average colored man's outlook on life, which was anything but encouraging to the older men who had received excellent training from their former masters.

Miss Ingraham Arrives

Early in 1906 Mary B. Mullen, the only survivor of the bloody massacre of missionaries in the English Sudan, established a small school for colored people some 20 miles from the scene of our story. "Old Man Ledbetter" heard of this venture and visited the school with a view of entering his and some of his neighbor's children. While there he attracted the attention of Miss Ida Ingraham, who was visiting Miss Mullen. She joined the Christian Missionary Alliance and was assigned work.

Plants School

Miss Ingraham was so impressed by the earnestness of her friend's visitor as he discussed the needs of his community, that she decided to investigate conditions there with a view of asking her organization to establish a school in that section. The old colored man sold himself so completely that she accompanied him to his home. After viewing the situation she called the leading colored men together with the result that eight acres of land and eight hundred dollars cash was given toward establishing a school. In a few days work was begun on the building and at the end of three months a handsome three-story building was completed. While the building was under construction Miss Ingraham conducted classes for both children and adults in the various homes. At these classes she emphasized the importance of religious training and better living conditions, and by the time the building was completed the school opened with eight classes and five teachers. News of the venture had gone out to other sections and the facilities were taxed to full capacity from the beginning. Regular public school studies, both elementary and high school, were instituted. At that time state supported schools for colored people consisted of only one or two months and were conducted by poorly prepared colored teachers, producing poor results and more or less indifference on the part of the patrons.

The tremendous task of conducting a creditable school with limited and uncertain financial support is within itself a long and interesting story; but this article concerns, principally, the far-reaching effects of her work; the inspiration she brought to these simple children of the hills, the dream she had and its ultimate realization so clearly shown in the social, economic and religious status of this colored community today.

Does Lasting Good

In less than ten years after Miss Ingraham began her work here more than twenty public school teachers went out from her school. The county superintendent stated that many of them were better prepared and did better work than the white teachers of the county. This resulted in marked improvement in all of the colored schools in that section of the state. Many of them went to college after completing the studies offered in the mission school, and almost without exception made enviable records. One of the girls won highest honors at Livingston College in a class of 75 girls; another is said by authorities at Shaw University to have graduated with the highest rating ever made by a student at that institution. This student was Grayson Logan who now occupies the chair of Industrial training at Cheney University. More than thirty graduates from this school are now holding responsible places in the business and professional life in various cities. One is a distinguished physician in Cleveland, Ohio. Another is a dentist in Chicago; one conducts a large undertaking establishment in New York City; one is attached to the United States diplomatic corps in Paris; a number of the girls have secured employment in northern cities. Two are nurses, one is assistant sanitation inspector in Harlem, one is manager of a large ready-to-wear place in New York, and several are teaching in this and other states.

While many who received their early training in this unusual school are prominent in business and professional circles in other sections; the most important and lasting results to the community have come through those who have elected to remain at home. Along with the academic training and religious instruction given by these faithful teachers emphasis was at all times placed on the importance of developing habits of industry, self-reliance, home-making, etc. This has resulted in a picture presented by the present generation of economic independence and personal contentment seldom seen in any country. Every family has something to sell almost every month of the year. Sweet potatoes, sorgum, beans, peas, apples and small grains are their principal crops; while little patches of turnips, lettuce, mustard, okra, tomatoes, melons and various other small crops keep every member of the family busy all sumer and till late in the fall. With the coming of good roads most of them use motor trucks in carrying their products to market, and very often travel a distance of 200 miles in order to reach a desirable market.

Teachers Remain

Miss Ingraham, after thirty years of joyful service to these people, has passed away; leaving the mission in charge of two faithful followers, who are modest in recounting the viccitudes through which the school has passed, including two disastrous fires which completely destroyed the main building. While the public school system is taking care of the educational needs to a great extent, these women continue to conduct classes in religious training and homemaking, do private tutoring for both old and young and enter into all of the individual and collective problems of the community. The story of the school is one that is gladly recounted by all of the older inhabitants, and it is embelished with all the mysticism and superstition for which the colored race is noted. "Old Man Ledbetter" has long ago "gone where all good old darkies go," Columbus Whitesides has also gone to his reward, but the friuts of their labors and sacrifices are now being enjoyed by this community of more than 60 families, occupying 5,000 acres of land. Two of the "Old-timers," Jim Freemen, 84 and Henry Logan, 81, still live to enjoy the spectacle of happy and prosperous families housed in modern homes, some of which have running water and electric lights; a people whose outlook on life is inspired by moral and religious principles of the highest order.

Towns and Settlements - 1931.

North Carolina.

109

West Southern Pines, N.C. -

North Carolina Town, Controlled by Negroes, Manages Own Affairs

Afro-American

2-7-31

Baltimore, Md.

WEST SOUTHERN PINES, N.C.—Nestling between two famous winter resorts, this little town which is incorporated, owned and inhabited entirely by Negroes, attests the fact that the race is capable of managing municipal affairs.

Since its incorporation eight years ago, many civic improvements have been made by the citizens. In 1927-29, a municipal building and grounds were purchased by the town. Several policemen were added to the force and given bright new uniforms.

There are several churches to administer to the aesthetic tastes of the inhabitants, and the standard of the schools is kept on par with that of the remainder of the state.

Plans Expansion

The town hopes to increase its population before the next election by annexing all the colored people adjoining its borders, many now being citizens of the white town of Southern Pines. The present mayor is J. E. Hasty, who is serving his second term.

PLEAD TO HAVE TOWN LEFT UNDER THEIR OWN RACE

Journal and Guide

N. C. House Committee Defers Action On Bill

3-7-31

LT. OXLEY SPEAKS

Had No Debt Since Charter Was Granted In 1923

Norfolk, Va.

RALEIGH, N. C.—After hearing the plea of a group of colored people here last week, that their own town be left to work out its own destiny, and their claim that they had already made no little progress, the House committee on counties, cities and towns Thursday decided to defer action on the bill to repeal the charter of West Southern Pines, one of two Negro towns in the country, until Senator Johnson of Moore, who introduced the bill, and Representative Spence could present their side. The bill would put the Negro town into the limits of Southern Pines.

The appeal of the Negroes was presented to the committee by Thomas Ruffin, white attorney, and Lieutenant Lawrence Oxley of the State Department of Public Welfare. Negro officials of the towns, which has not a white person in it, were present but did not speak.

Town Has Improved

Lieutenant Oxley said that since the Negroes, through their white friends, incorporated the town in 1923, crime, moral, and civic and religious conditions had improved immeasurably, though there was still much to be done. He told of the interest of the Rosenwald Foundation and students of sociology in the "experiment" of a Negro run town for Negroes and said that additional aid, in the form of health centers and clinics was expected from the foundation in a short time.

"One serious consideration which might develop if these people are put in Southern Pines is that you will have a group of Negroes, who have learned to use their franchise, participating in elections in a community that is not used to having an appreciable Negro vote," said the welfare officer.

Mr. Ruffin repeated the same fear, saying that the bill would create a race problem in the one community in the State where there was no such problem. Moreover, said Mr. Ruffin, the bill is most unfair to the Negroes, who have a tax rate of 50 cents, as it will put them, without allowing them to vote on the proposition, into a town where the tax rate is $2.50, or five times as great.

Bootleggers Cause Crime

What crime trouble there still is in the Negro town is largely due to the fact that white "bootleggers" ply their trade there, said Mr. Ruffin. He urged the committee "not to take from these people the results of their six year struggle."

It was pointed out that the town has no debt, that there is no debt on the six churches built since incorporation, and that the Negro election of Negro mayor, officials and policemen, though not completely successful, has resulted in a great improvement which is still going on.

Raleigh, N. C. News and Observer
Friday, February 27, 1931

Negro Town Pjeads to Be Left Under Its Own Race

After hearing the plea of a group of Negroes that their own town be left to work out its own destiny, and their claim that they had already made no little progress, the House committee on counties, cities and towns yesterday decided to defer action on the bill to repeal the charter of West Southern Pines, one of two Negro towns in the country, until Senator Johnson of Moore, who introduced the bill, and Representative Spence could present their side. The bill would put the Negro town into the limits of Southern Pines.

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Greensboro, N. C. News
Saturday, February 28, 1931

West Southern Pines, negro community, protests against a threat of merging its corporate entity with the white municipality, and points out that it is free from debt and has six churches free from debt. Then the town is unique amongst those of the state in more respects than being an all-negro incorporated community.

Negro Town to Maintain Own Purity; Whites Not Wanted

3-21-31

New York, N.Y.

RALEIGH, N.C.—After hearing the plea of a group of Negroes that their own town be left to work out its own destiny, and their claim that they had already made no little progress, the House committee on Counties, cities and towns, yesterday, decided to defer action on the bill to repeal the charter of West Southern Pines, one of two Negro towns in the entire country, until the legislators who introduced the bill could present their side. The bill would put the Negro town into the limits of Southern Pines.

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3-21-31

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What crime trouble there still is in the Negro town is largely due to the fact that white bootleggers ply their trade there.

North Carolina City First Segregates then Gobbles.

Afro-American

Only All-Negro Town in State Loses Its Corporate Identity After Prosperity Excites the Cupidity of Whites.

5-16-31

By J. PLEASANT HINES
Ex-Mayor

This town, known as Southern Pines, situated on the Seaboard Air Line Railroad, 68 miles southwest of Raleigh, the state capital, was established and incorporated about thirty years ~~ago or more~~.

Lying in the Piedmont section of the state, commonly called the Sandhill section, the winters being mild, it soon became a winter resort for Northern tourists. As the population increased it became apparent that many servants would be needed, therefore a segregated section was designated for Negroes to live in, and opportunity was given them to buy and build homes.

JIM TOWN CUT OFF FROM SOUTHERN PINES

One of the first settlers to come was a man by the name of James H. Henderson. He saw an opportunity and forthwith established a school. This section soon came to be called Jim Town. At that time the corporation of Southern Pines included Jim Town, but for some cause it was cut off from the white people's section and remained so until eight years ago.

During these years, Pinehurst was established and incorporated just six miles west of Southern Pines, Aberdeen four miles south, and Manley two miles to the northwest, leaving Jim Town in the center, embracing an area of about two miles square.

NO POLICE PROTECTION; CRIME INCREASED

As the population increased, it followed as the tail follows the kite, that crimes increased. It became very unsafe to travel in Jim Town especially at night. From 1915 to 1923, ten or more people were killed in Jim Town. We had no police protection and we would have to go a distance of 12 miles to get an officer to make an arrest.

TOWN INCORPORATED; ALL COLORED OFFICIALS

Hence in 1923, we were advised by the leading white men of Southern Pines to have our section incorporated. So, like the slave wishing to please his master, we forthwith sought and procured the services of Hon. J. Talbot Johnson, attorney, who presented the bill before the legislature and that body saw fit to grant us a charter of incorporation, with all colored officials.

Many of us had never seen a statute book much less have read one, but having the assistance and services of Mr. Johnson, we were able to get organized and get things in operation.

CRIME REDUCED; IMPROVEMENTS MADE.

From March 1923 to April 1927, four years, crimes were reduced 90 per cent; moral and and social conditions were improved 75 per cent; the population was increased 50 per cent. New and modern homes were built; five new churches were built at a cost of more than $50,000.

A new school building was put up, toward which the Negroes contributed upward of $7,000. Since 1923 electric lights have been put into almost every home, also street lights and streets improved. More than 2,000 feet of water line have been bought and laid by the citizens with not one dollar contributed by the white people.

SOUTHERN PINES ANNEXES PROSPEROUS SETTLEMENT

Now after all these improvements had been made it was a sore experience for us when we found that a bill had been presented before legislature to revoke our charter annex our town to that of Sout Pines, and worst of all, the bill presented by Senator M. M. Johns who was attorney for our town. knew nothing of the matter until saw it published in the paper.

I at once got in touch with the officials, or rather the house committee at Raleigh, and succeeded in getting a hearing before that body. We were represented by Mr. Thomas W. Ruffin and Lieutenant Lawrence A. Oxley, but to no avail. The bill passed both houses and was ratified on the 3rd of March.

It will be noted that no charge was filed against the official body of the town and no reason has been given why it was done. I tried to get the legislature to give us a vote on the matter but was flatly refused.

NEGRO TRAITOR HELPS WHITES

We feel injured and suffer from eight years of hard work trying to educate our people to be patriotic and self-respecting, but Southern Pines has said to us: "You are not fit to attend to your own affairs."

While we regret the action of the legislature and the advantage taken of us by the white people of Southern Pines, we feel the effect more keenly because a member of our race turned traitor and used his influence to help have it done.

The foregoing statement of facts I know to be true, for I have resided here since 1915.

All Negro Town

Courier

Fights To Exist

Pittsburgh, Pa

8-15-31

WEST SOUTHERN PINES, N. C., Aug. 13—Citizens of this beautiful town, run by Negroes since 1923, are resisting an act of the last general assembly revoking the charter granted to them in 1923. Attorney R. McCants Andrews, of Durham, has been retained to draw up legal documents to take an appeal to the Supreme Court of North Carolina and to the United States Supreme Court, if necessary.

Prominent citizens throughout the state have contributed to the fund being raised for legal expense incident to appealing the recent action of the North Carolina general assembly. Among those making contributions is C. C. Spaulding.

SUPREME COURT ASKED TO HALT MODERN AHABS

10/31/31

Highest N.C. Tribunal Petitioned to Save Colored Town.

WHITES WANT IT

Ofays Seize, Advertise Homes for Sale.

RALEIGH, N. C. — Ahab, the wicked Samaritan king, who coveted Naboth's vineyard near his palace, for a vegetable garden, has come to life in the white town of Southern Pines in this state.

According to the Bible story, Ahab's wife, Jezebel, had Naboth killed in order that her husband might easily secure a coveted strip of land.

The modern Ahab, represented by the white town of Southern Pines N.C., also coveted its smaller neighbor, West Southern Pines, a colored town incorporated since 1923, consisting of a 50-acre tract with 200 homes ch [illegible] schools, municipal buildings, etc.

In the 1931 State legislature, they secured passage of a bill by means of which the white town gobbles up the colored one and permits the white folk to supervise and control all the affairs of the colored.

R. McGants Andrews, of the Durham law firm of Andrews and McCoy, who were unsuccessful in the lower courts in preventing this crime, appealed the case on Monday, to the State Supreme Court.

Mr. Andrews claims that the reasons for the annexation are:

1. The colored town was succeeding.
2. The white town is $200,000 in debt and needs new taxpayers.
3. The spectacle of a colored town with its own town officials, police, store, filling stati[illegible]ool, voting booths is not enjoyed [illegible] white[illegible]

Seized Property

One of the first things done by the whites since they annexed the colored folk was to make an effort to collect taxes from all colored people, which taxes were owed to the colored town.

Failing in this, the property was advertised for sale with the expectation that whites would buy it in at auction figures.

Unconstitutional

In his plea to the court, Mr. Andrews asks that the colored people be given their town back;

First, because the annexation law does not authorize whites to collect taxes in arrears, which are not due to them.

Second, that the annexation law violates the State constitution, which expressly forbids the legislature from changing township lines.

He points out that the injustice being practised against the only colored town in the State is a tremendous setback, if the whites succeed.

Colored people excluded from State politics set up their own community, which a greedy neighbor covets and greedily seeks to grasp.

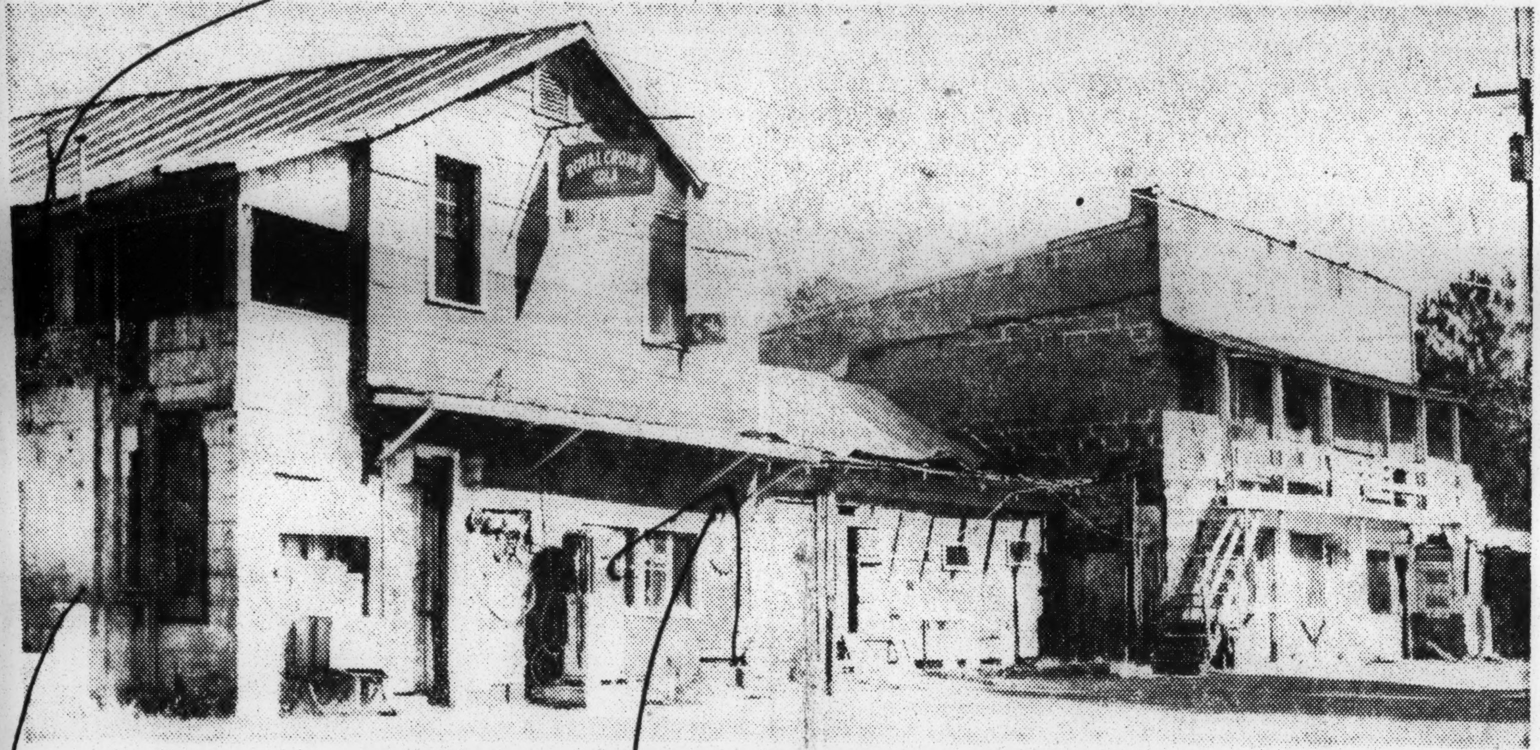
Mr. Andrews said he had asked the assistance of the Elks, the Civil Liberties Union, the N.A.A.C.P., the Interracial Commission of Atlanta, the Carolina branch of this commission, and the North Carolina Welfare League.

Except for a modest contribution from the North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company, he says, he has received no assistance.

Mr. Andrews, in this suit, represents J. E. Hasty, mayor of the colored town, on his own behalf, and representing property holders.

Defendants are D. G. Stutz, the white mayor, and the commissioners of the white town

50 1965 RED TOP, JOHNS ISLAND (SOUTH CAROLINA) DEC.



ONCE-LIVELY CENTER SLUMBERS ON OLD HIGHWAY

Red Top was named after a red-roofed building which probably has been demolished. (Photo by King)

The News and Courier

Red Top Named For Roof

By STEWART R. KING
Staff Reporter

4-13

Eleven miles west on U. S. 17 lies a Charleston community which has forgotten the origin of its name and most of its history.

Red Top, the Johns Island homeplace of six white and sev~~eral hundred Negro fami~~lies~~, has sunk into near oblivion since it was by-passed about 10 years ago by the new~~ four-lane highway.

~~Forking off from the hi~~ghway is the old U. S. Highway 17 — and the remains of Red Top's once-busy center, a row of store and apartment buildings which are mostly dilapidated.

Mon. 12-13-65

Red Top was named after a building with a red roof, its older residents testify. But just which building is a mystery.

Charleston, S.C.

"I guess it vanished long ago," said G. W. Foster, a resident in the area for 40 years.

"Probably it was named after the store on the end of the row. It's got a red roof," said John A. Jennings, who has operated a general dealer's store in Red Top for 25 years.

"Nobody seems to know for sure, and the store's owner cannot tell whatever he learned. He died some time back."

Another red-roofed building is Red Top general store and filling station which was moved lock, stock and barrel to make way for the new U. S. 17.

"I doubt if the place is named after our building. It's not that old," said Mrs. L. C. Messervy, wife of the owner.

The Messervys lived at Red Top 17 years before they moved several months ago to James Island.

Red Top's history is almost entirely forgotten; but the past appears to be one residents would not want to remember, anyhow.

Charleston historian Samuel G. Stoney said the community was "one of the bloodiest" in Charleston's own wild west of the last century.

Phosphate mines mushroomed west of the Ashley after the Civil War and the workers were noted for their heavy drinking and hijinks The employes of the Bulow Mines near Red Top were no exceptions.

Sev~~eral~~ fine plantations c~~ould be found in the area~~ in ~~ante bellum years. Mining~~ provided a new industry in ~~the 1880's, but this also~~ terminated before the turn of the century.

"It was still a fairly lively place when I first came." storekeeper Jennings said. "But in recent years people have drifted away, half the stores have closed up.

"The colored folk? Several were still farming when I arrived. Today they nearly all work in the city."

Red Top once served as a stopover point for cattle drives between Colleton County and Charleston. It boasts a marker where one of the minor battles of the Revolutionary War was fought. It enjoyed minor booms.

Now it slumbers, attracting hardly a glance from the motorists speeding by on the broad highway.

Do You Know Your Charleston County?

All-Negro Community

Atlantic Beach Becomes Town

News-Courier
Charleston, S.C.
[illegible]
P. 4 D

ATLANTIC BEACH (Special) —An all-Negro community was voted into being Tuesday as electors of this Horry County beach area went to the polls to approve incorporation as a town.

Apparently all 24 year-round residents favored incorporation. They elected a mayor and five wardens. M. Rucker polled 11 votes to 10 for W. H. Gore in the mayoralty race.

There have been mutterings that the election will be protested. Certain constituents have said that there were voting irregularities. They added that the election was not conducted under the supervision of an election commission.

However, in Columbia a spokesman for the Secretary of State's office said that his office had appointed an election commission on July 24.

There have been unofficial charges that this commission did not function, that an unauthorized person voted and that several votes were thrown out. There is no official reaction to these charges, due mostly to the confusion of persons inexperienced in the ways of politics, local observers said.

Named as wardens, the equivalent of town councilmen, were James Lewis and J. C. Murray with 11 votes and Daniel Gore, Lula Niles Webber and M. Simmons with 10 votes.

Results of the election have not been certified and no official was available to report on results.

"It's all very confusing," one election worker said. "I'm not even sure that these names are right, but that's the way I remember them."

54 1947

South Carolina

Segregated Village

In a newspaper of negroes was an interesting story of the village of Lincolnville. It was said that in it only four or five white persons dwell, and the sum of the story was that, controlled and governed by negroes, it was a happy home for them. It would probably be well were scores of negro villages in South Carolina, villages which they would govern in their own way. In these days could be negro villages in which families could live and go to their fields of labor a mile or ten miles in a few minutes. Before slavery was abolished negro villages on plantations, called "quarters", were well kept and orderly. The slaves did not elect mayors and councilmen for them. It might be beneficial to both races were negro villages founded in these days. The negroes everywhere in South Carolina show a steady and strong tendency to segregate themselves in residence.

News and Courier

Fri. 4-18-47

Charleston, S.C.

Center of Community Activities in Lincolnville

This is Lincolnville's Town Hall. It is used by the community for many occasions.—Hall Photo

Town of 450 Chartered

50

73 Yeargs Ago, Mile Area

Afro-American. Balt. 10-15-49

Once Home of Bishop D. W. Nichols; Railway Line Runs Through Section

Baltimore, Md.

By DOUGLASS HALL

LINCOLNVILLE, S.C.—It was through the medium of a street corner-argument that I got the hint that there existed in South Carolina a chartered colored town.

The "boys,' however, did not know the name of the place, nor did they know anything about it, except that it existed somewhere in the State. They had heard of it and were sure that it was an honest-to-goodness chartered town with a mayor, police and railroad station.

I have learned from experience that some of the best "leads" in this business are picked up from barber shops, pool rooms, street corners, etc. I am always hesitant about discounting tips, even when they seem as crazy as the one about a colored town in South Carolina.

100 Don't Know About It

I dug up a detailed map of the State and began looking for the town. I talked with more than 100 persons in Columbia, Sumter, Orangeburg, Charleston, Greenville, Aiken, and other towns. They looked at me rather oddly and shook their heads negatively.

Finding the town offered somewhat of a challenge. I never gave up! This summer at Atlantic Beach the subject was mentioned. Several persons there had been through it, but none remembered the name. The location, they stated was somehwere between Charleston and Summerville. They did not know what highway.

I got my map out again and looked closely to see if I could get a name that stuck. Finally, I did.

Name Catches Eye

Lincolnville! No white man in South Carolina would name a white town Lincolnville. At least that is what I thought. So out I started for Lincolnville. It seemed to be just a few miles outside of Summerville.

It was about dark when I arrived in Summerville. I asked about a dozen persons about a colored town. All gave me that "look' and stated that they had lived there all their lives and they had never heard of it.

The bottom just about fell out of my ego and I was about to leave, when I saw an elderly man.

"Where can I find that colored town around here?"

"There ain't no such thing, son," The old man replied.

I was about to drive off when he stopped me.

"I just reccolect," he stated, "there is a colored town about two miles from here. Old man Bill Steele is the mayor. You wil know him all right. He is about as old as I am."

We followed the railroad tracks as we had been instructed, and very soon we came upon a little flag-stop station with foot-high letters calling out: LINCOLNVILLE!

Find Mayor

As we stood there figuring on the next move, a rather overused auto hurried around a corner. In it was Mayor Charles A. Steele. He did not have time to tell me the story. He was about to catch a train for New York.

However, between bathing, shaving and packing, he managed to give out the necessary details.

The town was chartered 73 years ago. He dug up the moth-worn charter and showed it to me. He also showed me the ordinances. He has been elected mayor of the town five times during the past 40 years, serving a total of 16 terms.

There are about 450 persons living in the mile-circle town limits and their biggest tax-payer is the Atlantic Coast Line Railway which runs through its town-limits.

There are bout 50 white persons in the town, but most of the property is owned by colored persons. It was founded by Bishop Cain of the AME Church.

Ex-Home of Bishop Nichols

It was once the home of D. Ward Nichols, Bishop in the AME Church. Steele said that he used to attend Sunday school with Bishop Nichols. His father, the Rev. Ruffin Nichols was once pastor here.

"We do not have very much difficulty with our surrounding white neighbors," Mayor Steele stated, "They respect us as a chartered town. We hardly have a crime rate. But every time any person for miles around commits an offense, the local paper usually blames Lincolnville for it. But we quickly correct that.

"Once or twice we have been approached about turning in our charter. The railroad wants to get out of paying us the taxes. But we have managed to exist."

63rd Anniversary Being Observed by Mound Bayou, Miss.

Courier Det. 7-15-50

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(By Special Correspondent)

MOUND BAYOU, Miss. — When this all-Negro community celebrates its sixty-third anniversary, starting July 12, the Founders Day address will be delivered by Atty Alfred R. Taylor, law partner in the firm of Perkins and Taylor, Jacksonville.

Pittsburgh Pa.

A recent graduate of the Law School of the University of Southern California, the attorney who is now a resident of Jacksonville will serve as representative of Florida's Gov. Fuller Warren and Jacksonville's Mayor Haydon Burns, both of whom have appointed Taylor to extend greetings to the citizens of Mound Bayou on the occasion of their Founders Day celebration.

Founded by Isaiah T. Montgomery and Benjamin T. Green in 1887 the early settlers of Mound Bayou were ex-slaves of Jefferson Davis, president of the Confederacy and Joe Jefferson.

The prospering colored community where Attorney Taylor saw four years of service as principal of the Junior High School, is located on the Mississippi delta about 100 miles south of Memphis, Tenn., on the winding Yazoo and Mississippi Valley Railroad.

All of the town's officials are Negroes, including Mayor B. A. Green, son of one of the founders and a graduate of Howard Law School who has held the post of Mayor since 1920.

During the past ten years the population of the thriving town has increased from 800 to 1,300 persons. It services an area of thirty-six miles and a trading population of 8,000.

All land in the area is owned by members of the all-Negro town who represent a group of progressive Negroes working in unity and harmony to improve economic stardards, social and living conditions.

50 1954

LINCOLNVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA

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Colored-governed S.C.

Afro American

city marks anniversary

By JOHN H. McCRAY

LINCOLNVILLE, S.C. — On Dec. 24th, Lincolnville, last of the state's all-colored-governed municipalities, observes its 65th anniversary of its founding.

P. 18

Located 20 miles north of Charleston, in the northern tip of Charleston County, and one mile south of Summerville, Lincolnville was issued a charter of incorporation by Act No. 297 of the General Assembly on Christmas Eve Dec. 24, 1889.

A booming center of some 2,000 residents, only two of them white, some 35 years ago, its population today is less than 300 and many of these are whites.

* * *

LINCOLNVILLE HAS its public school, recently remodeled from its frame building constructed in 1925. It has a four-cell jail, seldom used, a Town Hall, two orthodox churches—Ebenezer AME and Wesley Methodist. It has three small country stores, two operated by white.

Its sole industry is a stave factory, about 10 years old. Some 30 years ago it had a turpentine distillery, but in the main its breadwinners have worked in Charleston or Summerville. There are ~~also~~ some farm and domestic servants' employment in the area.

50

Town elections are affairs in which only persons of African descent can participate.

* * *

ON OCCASIONS recently this custom and problems created by the moving in of whites, have stirred quiet efforts for repealing the charter.

Mayor William Seele Sr. led a successful fight in 1939 for maintenance of the town, but in so doing yielded to a demand for entrance of county police officers to help keep the peace.

About 10 years ago, Charleston ministers, in an effort to prevent much of the town's privately owned land from falling so cheaply into the hands of interested whites, for the charge of delinquent taxes, purchased considerable land, some of which remains for sale.

All-Negro Town's Mayor Going on 87

The Pittsburgh Courier
Sat. 4-15-61
Pittsburgh, Pa
P. 4

LINCOLNVILLE, S. C. — At 11:30 P. M., March 31, 1961, His Honor, Mayor William Seele Sr., of Lincolnville, S. C.'s only all-colored governed municipality, ended his 86th year and boasts, "I'm now doing number 87."

Mr. Seele has been mayor at one time or another for 48 years and is now winding up about 21 consecutive one year terms.

He was about 12 years old when Lincolnville was chartered by the state legislature, Dec. 24, 1886, grew up here, raised a family and his only concern is training "some young men to take our place."

■

MAYOR SEELE, who also doubles as town judge—and he presides with dignity and firmness—considers himself the oldest mayor, both from longevity of service and age in all of South Carolina.

His wheel-chair bound wife, Mrs. Belle Seele, whose sight left her several years ago, called this reporter's name without hestitation when he walked into her room in the Seele home.

She's recently returned to the state after an extended visit with children in New York City and, in Chicago, Ill.

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'Integration' Comes to South Carolina's Race-Governed Lincolnville

The Pittsburgh Courier

By JOHN H. McCRAY

Pittsburgh, Pa

p. 23

P.C. 5-13-61

LINCOLNVILLE, S. C.—Its founders and a great many of its first citizens would probably turn over in their graves because of it; but it's happened: racial integration has come to Lincolnville, South Carolina's lone and last of the Negro-governed towns which sprang up in the wake of emancipation and reconstruction, nearly 100 years ago.

The integration, twon-wise, extends only to use of the playground next to Town Hall. It began this way, according to 86-year-old (had birthday March 31) Intendant (Mayor) William Seele, Sr., who has completed 48 years as chief magistrate of this municipality:

"We bought and set up this playground equipment for the children of the community. I noticed several times that little white children who had been using the playground would run off the premises each time they saw me. It finally dawned on me why.

"So I told them, and their parents that the playground was for all children. Since then, they haven't run. In fact, it's common to see children of both races playing there together."

■

MAYOR SEELE went on:

"We have never had an integration or race problem in Lincolnville. In this respect we are way ahead of the rest of the South."

Lincolnville's present population is about 480 persons, the Mayor said. About a third of these are whites. In its heyday, its population was about four times the present, with less than five percent white.

The town was chartered by the state legislature Dec. 24, 1886. Its intendant (mayor) and four wardens (councilmen) are elected the first Wednesday in April annually. Present councilmen are:

The Honorables Samuel Fraz-

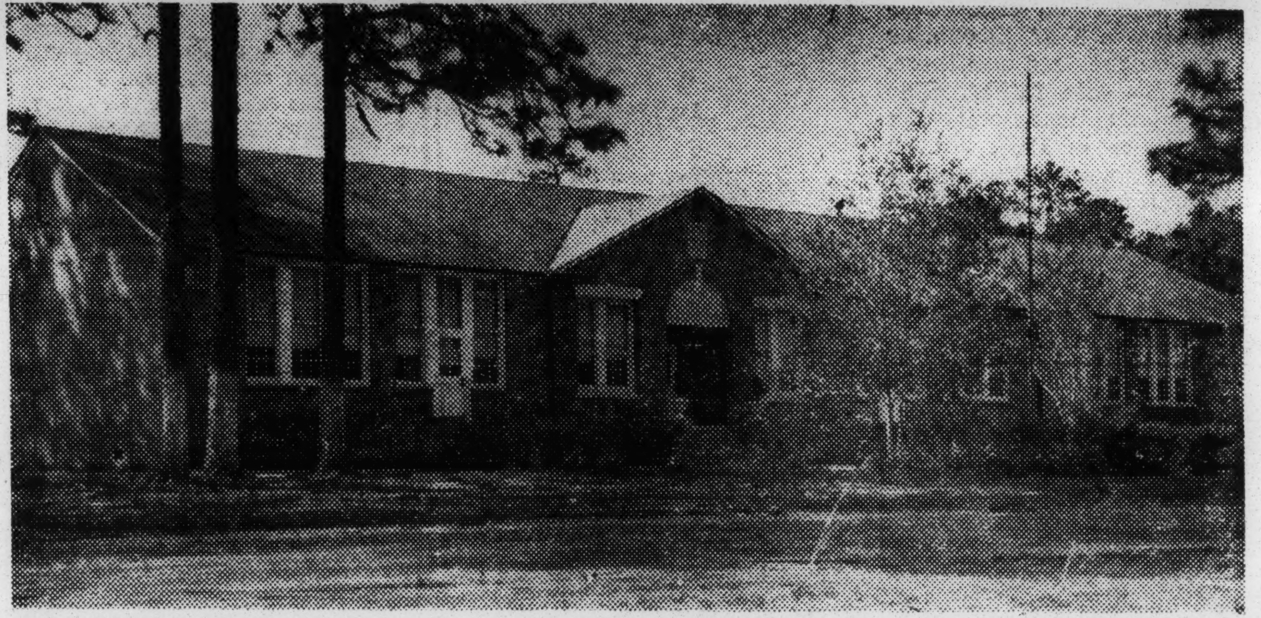
operated a special train which made two roundtrips daily between Charleston and Summerville, largely for the benefit of community-packed Lincolnville workers, who labored in mills, the Navy Yard and in other work in Charleston, commuting daily. Today, the Lincolnville station has long since disappeared; so has the railroad water tank and pump house.

Coal burners—models of the period—"watered" at Lincolnville.

■

ALSO LONG since gone is the Lincolnville Post Office, whose last postmaster was Prof. David Hill, who was later to become principal of Burke High School in Charleston.

No longer is the sumer loaded with train excursions from Charleston for picnics and outings, during which low country famed red (pileau) rice, fried shrimp, colored lemonade and baseball



KEEPS TOWN ON PAR — The public school at Lincolnville, built in 1927, keeps the all-Negro-governed town on a par with larger communities. It has three teachers and Mrs. W. A. Barron as principal.—McCray Photo

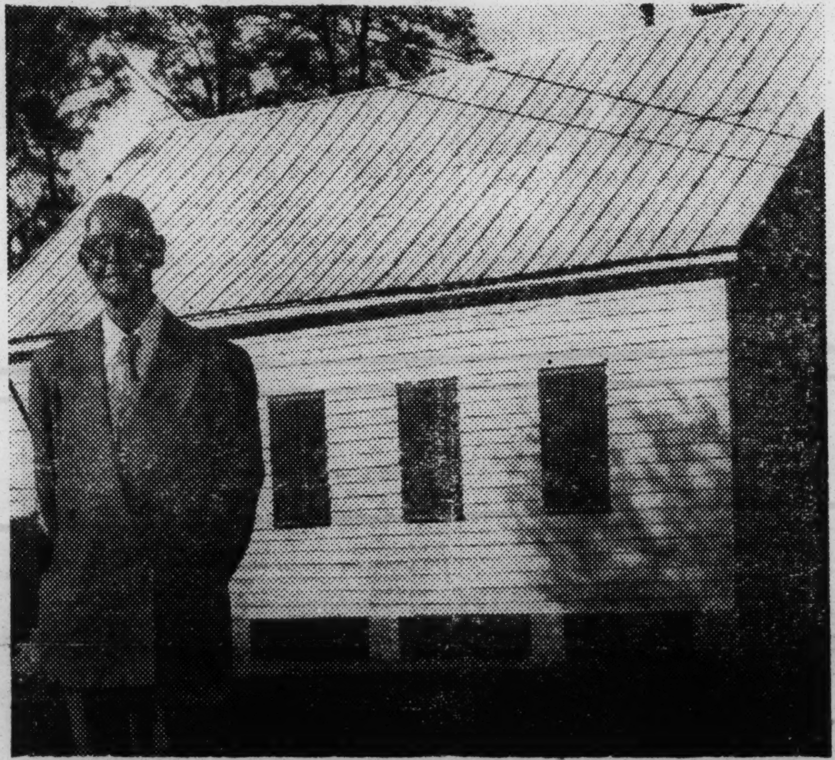
Some of this property later was again up for tax sale. Whites made the purchases.

■

LINCOLNVILLE ALMOST was dissolved by county action 21 years ago. A state legislator, pulling for white supremacy, raised the issue but town officials, led by Mayor Seele, thwarted him.

The only other Negro-governed town, however, Maryville—across the Ashley River from Charleston, was dissolved. Whites had moved into that area, as into Lincolnville. They had resented and opposed municipal rule by Negroes.

Integration? "That's the least of our problems," Mayor Seele says. "Our problem is continuing as our founding fathers planned, even in the light of a changed world. What we do, of course is insignificant, perhaps, elsewhere, but we want to be Christian, honest and just."



HIS HONOR — Mayor William Seele Sr., 86 years old, oldest Mayor in South Carolin on all points (48 years Mayor), stands before Town Hall in the state's only Negro-governed town.—McCray Photo

ler, Samuel Keller, Clay Aiken, and Cleveland Scott. Mrs. Ruth M. Ross is town clerk-treasurer; and hefty Samuel Bennett is the town marshal (chief of police).

■

MAYOR SEELE also sits as city judge and is empowered to assess fines up to $20 on minor charges, and bond major offenders over to state courts. He is quite proud, he says, of Lincolnville's record in support of law and order.

"We haven't had an arrest for disorderly conduct in over a year. In fact, we haven't had a prisoner charged in jail in about three years." His Honor said.

The town maintains a four-cell jailhouse, remodeled in 1933. It also maintains a Town Hall where community functions, dances and court sessions are held. Town Hall was constructed in 1903 and at first served as the Williams Graded School, according to its cornerstone.

Once the vacation mecca of Charlestonians, 19 miles to the South, Lincolnville is no longer the bustling community it was in the teens and twenties.

Then, the Southern Railroad

games were wide attractions.

A few old Charleston families still own property in the town, however, and managed to spend some time in the summer in their old retreats.

■

HOW LONG will Lincolnville last? This question frets town officials and older citizens. Mayor Seele said that "we're training younger men now what and how to do. We oldsters did our best; we hope they will keep the light burning."

Mayor Seele also took pains to say that it is no longer true that whites cannot vote in municipal elections. "They just don't," he said.

For years, white residents of the town were discriminated against in identical fashion with the discrimination practiced by white Democrats of the state. While whites can now vote, voiding a custom, nobody makes any effort to encourage them to vote. They would be outvoted, however.

■

THE COMMUNITY has a three-teacher elementary school, which services children in nearby communities like Dunmeyer Hill, Stallville, etc. It also has two churches, Ebenezer AME and Wesley Methodist Church. At one time it also had a Seventh Day Adventist church and a Baptist church.

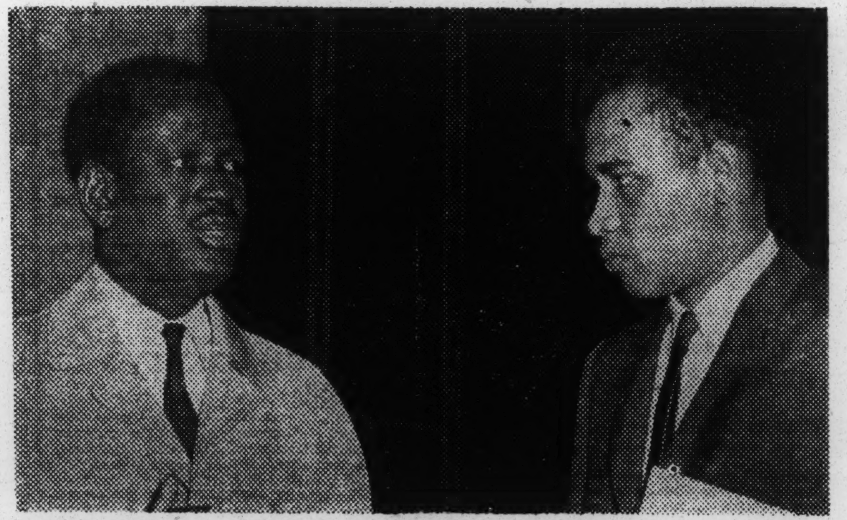
It has four of five small neighborhood stores, one operated by Mrs. Mary Bowman, colored. Its only industry is a barrel and stave plant.

It formerly was the site of a turpentine plant. Most workers are employed on surrounding farms, on jobs in Summerville—one mile North, or various in Charleston. The general lack of industries explains mainly the drop in Lincolnville's population through the years.

■

TOWN OFFICIALS are still pressing a campaign for newcomers. They have watched many choice lots and homes in the community bought from original Negro owners and sources for relatively small sums—payment of back taxes.

Descendants of the original landowners, all Negro, just abandoned inherited homes and land. Several years ago, responding to an appeal from twon officials, S. C. Negro ministers and businessmen bought up much of these homes and lands which were on the sheriff's sale list for back taxes.



RETURNING TO GHANA—William Y. Eduful, former Chief Information Officer for the Ghana Information Office in New York (left), is seen off at the New York International Airport, prior to his departure for Accra, by Hisham Omayad, who succeeds him here in New York. Mr. Eduful returned home on promotion.—Maurey Garber Photo

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Towns and Settlements

1933

WOULD ABOLISH CHARTER OF ALL-NEGRO TOWN

Journal and Guide

Bill To Destroy Self-Gov't Passes S. C. House

Maryville

1-28-33

CHARLESTON, S. C. — Faced with the same fate which befell the all-Negro town of West Southern Pines, N. C., when its charter was abolished by legislative action a few years ago, citizens of Maryville, all-Negro settlement in St. Andrew's parish, are preparing for a determined fight against a bill recently introduced in the State Legislature, under the terms of which the town's charter would be abolished.

Maryville

The bill which was introduced by Representative H. G. Senseney of Charleston, has already been passed by the house of representatives, according to recent advices from Columbia. Leading citizens of the community, led by Mayor Thomas Carr, have already employed counsel to oppose the move which would do away with their self-government.

The town has authority to levy a half mill tax, which brings in about $200 a year, and it is said that opposition to this tax on the part of the four or five white merchants doing business there, prompted the introduction of the bill.

Maryville, incorporated for about fifty years, is Charlestown County's smallest muncipality. The town was created principally as a Negro center and has very few white residents. It has a population of approximately 500. The government consists of a mayor and four wardens who compose the town council.

Railroad Main Taxpayer

The Seaboard Airline Railway, the tracks of which pass through the town, is the largest taxpayer, with an annual tax of about $25. Mayor

(Continued on Page 15)

Towns and Settlements - 1933

South Carolina

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Journal and Guide

Norfolk Va

2-4-33

Demolishing A Town Charter

DEMOLISHING is a better word than "abolishing" when applied to what is happening to the town government of Maryvillle, South Carolina. The town, in Charleston County, is one of the few Negro-governed corporate communities in the United States. Most of them are in the South. Mound Bayou, Miss., and Boley, Okla, are among the most prominent and successful from a business point of view.

Maryville was incorporated about 50 years ago and has a population of 500, about 99 per cent colored. The town is governed by a mayor and four wardens, who compose the town council, levy taxes and administer affairs as do other town governments. There is a magistrate, who is a Negro. The county sheriff says that his office has never had any difficulties with the residents of Maryville. The Charleston *News and Courier* relates an interesting story of Maryville's history leading up to a recent move to abolish the town's charter.

It appears from the newspaper reports that four white merchants doing business in the town objected to paying the small license tax levied against them by the town council. So they petitioned the county's representatives in the state legislature to revoke the charter. Already the South Carolina House has passed the bill. The Senate will no doubt concur, and Maryville, as a Negro-governed municipality, will be a thing of the past.

If results are typical and conditions run true to form the four white merchants who demolished the civic enterprise of the Maryville community after 50 years of successful experimentation, will continue to do business in the town and draw patronage from the community folk. It is safe to say that their entire trade is drawn from the very people upon whom they have committed a political crime. If our people were not so docile and forgiving of such outrages the merchants would of course be subjected to a trade boycott that would drive them out of business in that community.

A Charleston County member of the South Carolina House is reported to have said that he introduced the bill abolishing the town's charter because he was requested to do so. He had no other interest in the matter, he said. Members of the House passed the bill because they were asked to do so by a fellow member who had four white constituents to serve. The members of the Senate will do the same thing, for the same reasons. They can commit this piece of legislative rape upon 500 Negroes with impunity because the latter cannot strike back with ballots.

Maryville, S.C -

Towns and Settlements -1936

South Carolina.

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Whites Object, So Race Town Loses Charter

CHARLESTON, S.C., July 10.—Maryville is no more.

The charter of the Race city of about 500 souls was revoked by the state legislature because a few white families which had settled in the town objected to living under a government run by members of the Race.

Maryville was granted its charter during reconstruction and since that time had been governed by a Race mayor and Race town council. A police force of only one man was maintained.

The 50-year record of the little town which was about five miles west of this city was a commendable one. It had a jail—as most towns do—but it seldom had any prisoners. Most of the residents were farmers and many of them were landowners. Very little of the property in the town was owned by outsiders.

Whites who had looked upon the town with covetous eyes began to plan and scheme so that they might gain control of it. Some actually moved into the little town. As more and more whites became residents of the Race town more and more objection was raised to its existence.

The whites objected to living under a government controlled by black men so they took up the matter with other whites, whites who were more influential than they. And so the charter of the little town was revoked, automatically dissolving the government by Race men.

Maryville is no more.

[illegible]

[illegible] Chicago

7-11-3

South Carolina.

Towns and Settlements - 1936

149

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[illegible] 7-11-36

Towns and Settlements - 1936

South Carolina

150

BROOKLYN, N. Y.
CITIZEN

Negro Towns

JUN 24 1936

Withdrawal of Charters Dissolves Small Negro Town in South Carolina

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CHARLESTON, S. C. (U.P.).—Recently when the State Legislature withdrew the charter of the town of Maryville, five miles west of here, it dissolved a municipality unique in the southeast.

The town of Maryville had held its charter since the reconstruction period. At one time its citizenry was composed almost entirely of negroes, its Mayor, town council and one policeman were of that race,

During the more than fifty years of its life its record was a good one. Its tiny jail went almost unused and unneeded. Most of its inhabitants were employed on nearby farms and many of them were farm owners. Nearly all the property in the village was owned by its citizens.

Objection to the town's negro administration had grown within recent years, however, because its population of 500 was beginning to be augmented by whites.

Maryville City fathers saved their charter in 1933 by rescinding a $5 tax imposed on merchants, many of whom are white.

But by this year the white population had grown still more. A bill for the abolition of the charter was introduced by Rep. Ira M. Koger of Charleston and met little opposition.

One other negro community, Lincolnsville, near Summerville, still retains its charter, but its population remains almost entirely negro.

Peaceful All-Race S. C. Town Taken By Whites

MARYVILLE, S. C., July 9—(C)—This town, which has held its charter since reconstruction with a colored mayor, town council and one policeman, is no longer colored, since the last legislature abolished its charter because whites were moving in. During its half century as a municipality under the control of Negroes, the jail was almost unused. Ira M. Koger of Charleston introduced the bill in the legislature that dissolved the charter. The bill met no opposition (from the whites).

Savannah, Ga., News
June 5, 1940

Negroes Live Contentedly at Pinckney Island Exile

Descendants of Slaves Refuse to Leave As They Bask in Sun, Fish and Eat Plenty of Butter Beans and Corn

That many a tear was shed in vain over Uncle Tom, suffering hero of Harriet Beecher Stowe's famous anti-slavery book, is indicated by the dozen negro families that still reside on Pinckney Island, S. C.

The negro families are said to be descendants of those living in slavery times, but they haven't thought enough of their freedom to leave it.

Although conditions are in no wise the same as they probably were in the days when they went into the broad cotton fields at the command of the "masah," the latter certainly must not have subjected them to the cruelty suffered by Uncle Tom, which wrung such torrents of vicarious tears from sympathetic readers. If they had, they certainly wouldn't have remained all these years.

To look at the negroes sitting contentedly on the stoops of their picturesque little cabins on the island suggests to one that they have arrived at a sort of Utopia.

The sunshine is warm, the breezes are gentle, and life is easy with a fertile, productive soil to grow butter beans, roasting ears, cabbage and other vegetables. The streams are fruitful, and its no trouble at all to catch all the shrimp, oysters, crabs and fish a darky can desire. Life has been reduced to a "sleepin' in the sun" almost, and it makes one a bit envious to observe their delightful indolence.

In a recent visit of a group of Savannahians to the island, the obvious contentment of the negroes on the island aroused marked interest and a slight wonderment.

Although told that the negroes were hired by the day by the island owners when there was work to do, the only ones observed were leisurely lounging on their little porches, despite the fact that spring is supposed to be a busy time on a farm. Garden plats are furnished them and of course fishing is free, so the cash earned is a "windfall" in a place where meeting the necessities of life are so simple.

In addition to the ease with which the comforts and necessities of life are attained, the negroes don't have to worry about educational and spiritual guidance. The state sends them a teacher for their children, and a "deaconish" minister visits his flock about once a month. The Lord's messenger dresses the part of his noble office too. He wears a velvet, long-tailed coat.

Life is so pleasant on the island that even strange noises and strange people don't seem to pique the curiosity of the negroes. At least one old man whose cabin is near the landing dock would not take the trouble to run around and look when a large motorboat put in at the landing and the group disembarked.

Noting that the negro never changed his position, which faced the opposite direction, one member of the party summed up the indolent contentment thus:

"Did you ever see anything to beat it? You know he must have been curious about all those strange noises and voices. I bet he wished he had been pointed in the right direction!"

Pinckney Island
S.C.

Towns and Settlements - 1928

St. Helena Island. off Coast of (South Carolina.)

St Helena Island, S.C -

NEGRO COLONY, WITH NO POOR ON SOUTH CAROLINA ISLE

Beaufort, S. C.—in an island near here where, in 1862, federal army guns barked for the freedom of the inhabitants, approximately 5,000 Negroes now live as prosperous, happy property owning farmers.

While many modern conveniences have found their way to St. Helena Island, the Negroes still hold to oxen as beasts of burden. More than 1,300 of these animals draw the plows that turn the soil for crops of corn, cowpeas, sweet potatoes long staple cotton, peanuts and other sea island produce.

Most of the Negroes on the island are descendants of slaves. They are deeply religious. There are seven churches in the community and numerous "praise houses" have been maintained since long before 1861. The praise houses are an institution which yearly attracts dozens of students of racial history and sociology.

Twice a weke the houses are opened for public worship. The congregations consist largely of women. A lay officer presides, reads from the Bible and talks briefly. Negro spirituals are sung and at the end of the service some one begins prayer. The benches are moved to the back of the auditorium and the congregation join hands in a circle. Bodies sway to the chanting, rhythmic spirituals, hands are lifted high in supplication and the circle moves slowly around. This is continude for a time and the meeting is then adjourned.

The island inhabitants take keen interest in education The Penn vocational school, principal [illegible]ational institution of the community, has taken prizes in competition with similar schools. There is a community house and other schools for younger children.

The community has no orphanage, for orphans are promptly adopted by some family. No resident of the island has ever gone to the poor house.

The present colony was established when white residents fled from the island after the war between the states and the lands were sold for taxes. Negroes remained on the island and the government assisted them in the operation of their farms.

Today there are approximately 1,000 subdivisions on the land with homes and small farms.

Journal
Jacksonville
Fla
Jan 27-28

Towns—1915

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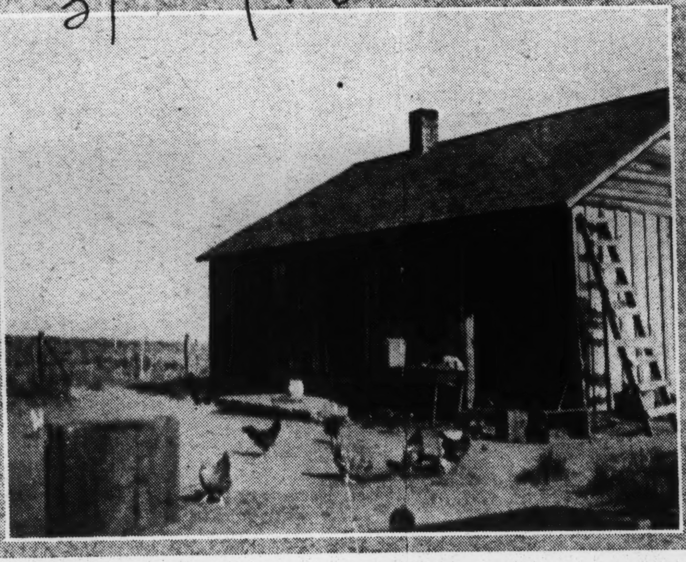
Agricultural Negro Colony in Eastern Colorado

Denver Western Farm Life
5/1/15

By FREDERICK P. JOHNSON.



From Deerfield Colony in Eastern Colo.—1. A Contented Colony Family. 2. Rear View of O. T. Jackson's Residence. 3. A Bachelor's Claim Shanty.

ONE of the most remarkable agricultural colonies ever started in this country is located in the Platte Valley of eastern Colorado, only a few miles northeast of Denver. It is composed entirely of negroes. It consists at the present time of about forty farms, of 160 acres each, and a townsite of 480 acres. This whole project was conceived in the mind of a negro and has been carried on thus far entirely by negroes, and after only five years is already showing indications of complete success.

Oliver T. Jackson, who for several years past has been the colored messenger in the office of the governor of Colorado, is the genius who has planned out and promoted this proposition up to the present time. "Jackson," as he is familiarly known to those who frequent the Capitol building at Denver, some years ago was running a restaurant in Boulder, Colorado, and from that took up farming. In studying agriculture from the standpoint of a negro, he found the great difficulty was in securing help. It was difficult to get white men to work for a negro, and this put into Jackson's head the idea of a negro colony where they could co-operate with each other in their agricultural work. Jackson's duties in the office of the governor have enabled him to become acquainted with practically every prominent politician in Colorado, and from this vantage point he has worked energetically and his colony is now rapidly reaching a point where it may be called an assured success. It took plenty of nerve for this small group of negroes to go out upon the barren, sage-brush prairie and undertake, without means or capital, to force a living from the unyielding soil.

"We have not dared to say very much about our colony heretofore," said Jackson the other day in discussing his work. "We began our settlement in May, 1910. There were about 20,000 acres of government land opened for settlement in almost a solid body. There was no way in which we could have this land reserved for our people especially, so I had to use every precaution about advertising the location. As we began to locate and build shanties, some white settlers were attracted and about half of the land got away from us, but, fortunately, a very good class of white settlers came in, and we have been able to get on in perfect peace and harmony, the blacks and whites sharing each other's failures and hardships and aiding each other in every way possible. Some of the white settlers who located about the same time that the first negro settlers did are now proving up and are willing to sell to negroes on very reasonable terms. Others are willing to relinquish to us, so with these opportunities and with about 7,000 acres of state lands adjoining, we can have a settlement occupying about 30,000 acres.

"Our first difficulty was the fact that very few of the negroes had any money with which to buy land, and few were able to pay even five dollars per acre for **state lands and make their improvements. After much investigation, we picked out our present location near the** South Platte River, in Weld County. The soil here is of very fine quality; a sandy loam not hard to work; plenty of native grass; water handy for domestic purposes, and none of the land over five miles from a railroad and only seventy miles from Denver, which practically assured us a market for our produce. The land is gently rolling and has an inexhaustible underflow of water for irrigation which has to be pumped from only sixteen to eighty feet.

"For fifteen years I was the only colored farmer in a very prosperous settlement of white farmers near Boulder, Colorado. I raised successful crops, but found it very hard to get help to harvest and market my crops. The white farmers were friendly, but they were always too busy with their own work to assist me. My people are of a happy disposition, but cannot stand seclusion on a farm for any length of time, so I could not keep colored help, and whenever I got a good white man the other farmers would out-bid me for his help.

"In 1906 I started out to find a location that would accommodate about 200 colored families in a solid body, my idea being that we could co-operate and help each other. Up to 1908 I had not been successful in finding what I wanted. I found it difficult to get the people in the land office to pay very much attention to a negro, so I decided to go into politics myself, and in 1908 I took an active part in the campaign, assisting the Democratic nominees, and as a result of that work was appointed messenger in the governor's office. This enabled me to get assistance from prominent politicians, and I have held my position through three administrations and am starting in on the fourth in the same position. Through my position in the governor's office I was able to secure lots of assistance, the governors whom I have served all being interested in my work and assisting me in many ways.

"I never had any desire to become a politician, and the more I see of the game from the vantage of the governor's office the less I care for it. I have always maintained that the negro would thrive much better out of politics than in it. As a mass, we are generally used for political conveniences, and have no power or influence to prevent it in a state with a "floating" population like Colorado. In my opinion, no man or woman, white or black, should be allowed a vote or voice in the government who is not a direct taxpayer or a producer from the soil. I never talk politics in our settlement. I believe that every man who owns 160 acres of land and works in developing it will find his politics directed as his marketable crops and taxable interests are affected by political conditions.

"I was the first to locate in the new colony. I filed on 320 acres as a desert claim on May 5, 1910, and established my home April 12, 1911, where my wife and father-in-law and a boy I have taken to raise from the state home have resided ever since. I was afterwards allowed to change my claim to a 320-acre homestead. **During the year 1910 filings were made by James S. McPherson, C. H. Hicks, J. M. Thompson, Joe Young,** J. N. B. Anderson, J. M. Williams and Mr. Harrison. I began by making a charge of $14 to each locator for locating them, but I soon changed this and made no charge for locating. Many did not even have money enough to pay their railroad fare to go out and see the land, but I was able to get assistance from the Union Pacific people, who gave passes. I had my teams to haul them out from Masters station to look at the land, gave lodging and meals free at my cabin and in some cases loaned all or part of the money to pay the filing fees. I have succeeded in locating forty families, some on 160 acres and some on 320 acres. I could now locate three times that number near the new town of Deerfield if government land were available near the settlement. Four have proven up, and three others are eligible to prove up, and in three years more all will have proven up.

"The new settlers at Dearfield were as poor as people could be when they took up their homesteads. Some who filed on their claims did not have money enough to ship their household goods or pay their railroad fare. Some of them paid their fare as far as they could and walked the balance of the way to Deerfield. Many of the first comers secured work with the white farmers in that district and began to establish their residences on their claims. Some were in tents, some in dugouts and some just had a cave in the hillside. The first year there were but seven families in the settlement and we had only three teams. We managed to get in some garden: corn, melons, pumpkins, squash, Mexican beans and some hay, and cleared some ground of sagebrush. We raised quite a lot of chickens, ducks and turkeys. By assisting each other we managed to raise and store away enough produce to run us part way through the winter, which was a very cold one. That winter only two of us had wooden houses, and the suffering was intense. We had scarcely any wood to burn. Buffalo chips and sagebrush was our chief fuel. Three of our horses died from starvation and the other three were too weak to pull the empty wagon. What fire wood we could get had to be carried on our heads from three to seven miles from the Platte River—mostly driftwood.

"We now have forty-four wooden cabins, fairly comfortable, and twenty-seven families have lived comfortably in the settlement this last winter. Some have left because of not having comfortable houses and others for school advantages for their children. Those living in the settlement this last winter had their dugouts well filled with vegetables, etc., plenty of hay and feed for their stock, and some raised hogs last year which they killed and packed and sold to the others. There is plenty of game and fish in the neighborhood, and occasionally some white farmer kills a beef and divides with the settlers on reasonable terms.

"At the present time we have twenty teams, twenty-three cows and calves, thirty-two hogs, one thousand chickens, **ducks, turkeys and geese, all kinds of farming tools, buggies, wagons, seed** corn, seed potatoes and other seeds for this season's planting; plenty of alfalfa and wild hay to feed to our stock and enable us to put in our crops for this year. Last year we had under cultivation 595 acres and 300 acres cleared for hay. We planted oats, barley, alfalfa, corn, beans, potatoes, all kinds of garden truck, sugar beets, watermelons, cantaloupes, pumpkins and squash.

"Everything came up fine and did well until July. Then came the grasshoppers that almost cleaned us out. We saved about 500 bushels of corn, forty sacks of potatoes, five tons of sugar beets, some beans, squash and pumpkins. We were not discouraged, however, and last fall did some clearing for hay ground, and our plowing will increase our hay ground to 1,000 acres and the cultivated land to 1,500 acres for the coming season. We will plant about the same crops as last year. The natural hay will produce about one-half ton per acre the first year. We aim to produce alfalfa and natural hay and prepare for dairying, swine growing and poultry raising. If we have no bad luck this year our people will be self-supporting by next fall.

"Up to the present time our main support has come from employment by the white farmers in the neighborhood of ten miles around. This has been a great help to us and to them. We have co-operated with each other by exchange of work, the use of tools and horses, sharing our food and fuel, until now we are like one large family.

"Our town of Deerfield is established on 480 acres of state land, located two miles south of Masters, on the Union Pacific. We platted the town of Deerfield in eight blocks with five and ten-acre tracts all around. We have in the town a Presbyterian church, 24 by 36, built by the Denver Presbytery, which has furnished us a student pastor. A missionary society was organized by the women which has done some splendid work in uniting the settlers and looking after the less fortunate. They hold their meetings twice a month at the farm homes. There is also a boarding house and store combined, built and maintained by the Rev. J. A. Thomas Hazell of the People's Presbyterian church of Denver. Rev. Hazell is the only negro preacher who has taken an active part in the establishment of Deerfield. He has taken up a homestead of 320 acres and has established his residence.

"We established Deefield in order to give our people who did not care to farm an opportunity to engage in the mercantile business and take up truck gardening. It is destined to provide opportunities for negroes in every profession. The nearest towns to Deerfield are Orchard and Wiggins on the east, ten and fifteen miles, and Hardin and Kersey on the west, twelve and eighteen miles. There is a small store and post office at Masters, which is our railroad point.

"The settlers and people who have purchased town lots have organized a company to manufacture cement blocks and open a lumber and coal yard. The merchants of Denver, Wiggins and Orchard have been very considerate of our people in their efforts to establish themselves.

(Continued

Nashville Tenn
Banner

Banner

AUG 30 1915

NASHVILLE NEGROES GO TO COLORED TOWN

A number of negro citizens connected with the Nashville City Association, an organization for the [illegible]ment of conditions among colored people, of which the Rev. J. C. Harding is president, left on the 8:30 train this morning for Hortense, the negro town in Dickson county, where they will participate in the ground-breaking exercises for the industrial school and widows and orphans' home, work on which will begin at once.

The party was headed by the Rev. J. B. Mullins of Nashville, who has been most active in the development of the new negro town.

Towns and Settlements—1920

Dearfield---The Dream That Came True

Property Values of Weld County Negro Settlement Now Amount to More Than Three-Quarters of a Million; 700 Colored People Raised to Position of Independence by Establishment of Colony.

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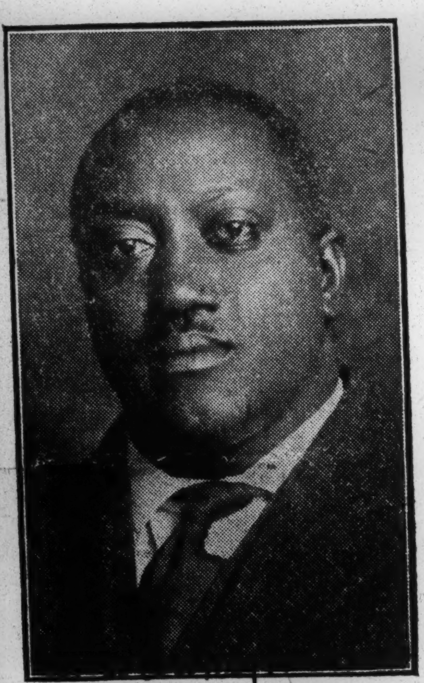
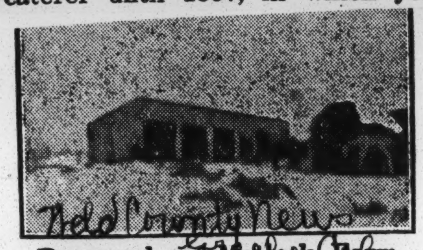


HENRY MISHER
Greeley Col. 2/13/20
of the Misher-Brown Company

From raw prairie, unproductive and void of improvements, given over to the prairie dogs and coyotes and valuable only for its somewhat sparse grazing, to farms worth at least $15 an acre, with improvements worth nearly $200,000, livestock and poultry valued at $185,000, and with an annual production of more than $125,000, is a remarkable stretch of development, but even more remarkable is the development of hundreds of educated and ambitious farmers from raw material gleaned from the lowest fields of labor. The story of the inception and development of the Dearfield Negro colony in eastern Weld county is one of inspiration to anyone who has ever given thought to the possibilities of teaching the colored man the lesson of self-help and thus enabling him to raise himself from the ranks of unskilled labor and make of himself a successful competitor in the world's business.

Because the story of the Dearfield colony is so closely interwoven with the story of O. T. Jackson, its founder and the leader of its people today, no sketch of the colony's history is complete without an accompanying sketch of this remarkable colored man. He was born at Oxford, Ohio, in 1862, the descendant of slaves on one side of the family. His parents had come to Ohio in 1849 from their home in Lynchburg, Virginia, and their son made his home with them until 1876, when he went to Cleveland, where he was engaged in business as a caterer until 1887, in which year he first came to Colorado. The $5 capital with which he had left home in '76 had dwindled to a total of 20 cents when he arrived in Colorado many years later.



Weld County News Greeley Col.
Barnyard on Matlock Farm
2/13/20

For seven years he made his home in Denver, making a comfortable living from his business of catering, but he had always entertained a desire to become a farmer and in 1894 he secured a tract of land east of Boulder which he farmed successfully for the next sixteen years. Although successful in farming, he was constantly confronted with the difficulty of securing sufficient help. White labor was scarce and such colored help as he could get was difficult to keep because of the competition of the neighboring white farmers and the lure of city lights.

Out of the scarcity of help came the first germ of the idea which later found fruition in the Dearfield colony. Inspired by Booker T. Washington's "Up From Slavery," Jackson and his wife discussed for years the pleasant dream of an agricultural colony peopled by their own race, self-supporting and independent and all contributing to the welfare and development of the colony. At various times vague efforts were made to ascertain where land suitable to such a colony could be obtained but nothing was accomplished until 1909, when as Messenger to Governor Shafroth, Jackson was brought into touch with the people who were able to supply him with the information he needed in order to make a definite step toward the realization of his dream.

Various efforts were made to find a tract of state land sufficient to care for the needs of a colony such as the founder had in mind, but this proved impossible owing to the fact that all of the large compact areas of state land suitable for farming were under lease to the stockmen for grazing purposes. Moreover it was apparent that a great many of those who would apply for land in the proposed colony would not have sufficient means to enable them to purchase lands but would have to rely upon the free lands offered by the government. A careful search of the agricultural sections of the state disclosed three large areas of homestead land available for entry in Elbert, Larimer and Weld counties. For good reasons the Elbert county land was eliminated and Jackson turned his attention toward the two remaining counties. The homestead lands in the vicinity of Boulder creek in northern Larimer county were exceptionally attractive but the site was finally abandoned because of its remoteness from the railroads. Jackson then determined to establish his colony in southeastern Weld county, where there was more than 25,000 acres available in fairly compact form. He was the first entryman in the colony, making his homestead entry on May 5, 1910. In August, 1910, he established his legal residence on the land and in the spring of the following year commenced breaking the first plow land in the district.

From that moment the growth of the colony commenced and although it proceeded with discouraging slowness for the first two or three years, the pioneers never doubted its ultimate success and never gave up hope in the face of adversity. Jackson's recruits came from all walks of life. He had not the means with which to carry on an extensive colonization campaign nor did he deem it advisable to advertise the project widely through fear that the best lands would be snapped up by white settlers before he could secure it for his colored brothers.

Among the Negroes in hotels and barber shops and in laboring gangs he preached the gospel of agriculture as the most certain means toward independence. An incident characteristic of the manner in which the earliest settlers in this pioneer colony were secured is that in which J. M. Thomas the first actual resident on the land, was induced to come. In September, 1910, while Jackson was passing the site where the old buildings were being demolished to make way for a new post office building, Thomas, then a stranger to him, hailed him with a neighborly request for a chew of tobacco. Replying that he did not use the weed in that [illegible]r form, Jackson inquired why the old man was engaged in such unpleasant work and why he did not secure a farm and go to work for himself.

"That's just what I want to do," replied the old man, "but I haven't been able to find anything that I can get. All of the locators want $50 to show me the land and I haven't got the money."

"I've got exactly what you want," replied Jackson, and then he made arrangements with the old man to accompany him on the following Saturday to Boulder, where he was to take a four horse load of Jackson's belongings to the new settlement. Thomas was in earnest and on the appointed day the two men went to Boulder. The guide who was to accompany the stranger to the land failed to appear, and Thomas set out by himself with four horses and a heavily loaded wagon. Owing to a series of troubles which he experienced on the way, such as the overturning of his wagon and the loss occasionally of portions of his load which had to be recovered, and because of the strange road over which he was traveling, the old man made such slow progress that Jackson, having heard nothing from him, started a week later and overtook him at Roggen, about twelve miles south of the site of the colony.

The two men made the remainder of the trip together and spent that night in a little tent on the present location of the townsite of Dearfield, but at that time barren prairie. The presence of a coop of chickens attracted the coyotes, which came in bands close to the temporary camp and made the night hideous after the usual coyote fashion.

"We were nearly scared to death," says Jackson of that experience. "It was the most uncomfortable night I have ever spent."

Undaunted by his initial experience, Mr. Thomas proceeded at once to file on an adjoining quarter section, his entry fee and necessary expenses being advanced by Jackson. He sent to Oklahoma for his family and they established their residence on the property at once and have made their home there since that time. Mr. Thomas, the pioneer resident of the colony, died in 1917, shortly after the departure of his son, Robert Thomas, for France. The son went into the service as a private and was accorded a remarkable demonstration by the people of Greeley when he left with this contingent—the only colored man in the group. After the close of the war he returned a First Sergeant, having seen active service on the firing lines in France.

The first few years in the life of the colony were disastrous and discouraging, as the first years of pioneering always are. The settlers were as poor as the proverbial church mouse and many of them had had little or no experience in farming. Moreover almost without exception they lacked the managing instinct which comes only with experience in business. Without capital or experience they were confronted by natural conditions which have taxed the ingenuity of educated white farmers. Their lands lay above the river, where irrigation was impossible and they were forced to resort to rigid dry farming methods, the science of which was wholly unknown to them. Yet with all these disadvantages of a personal and natural character they went ahead with their plans, made such poor improvements as they could and proceeded to eke out an existence from the land. They had little or no livestock and lived in tents, dugouts and shanties. Some of them even walked the last few miles when their money was gone and they could no longer use the railroads.

The first year of actual settlement was 1911 and in the fall of that year there were but seven families in the settlement with only three teams among them. During the summer they had gathered enough vegetables to carry them partially through the winter and the fall was devoted to the clearing of raw land, men, women and children working side by side.

The winter of 1911-12 was exceptionally severe and of the seven families only two had frame houses. Fuel was scarce and as there was no timber available on the bare prairie they frequently carried wood on their heads from the valley of the Platte river—from three to seven miles. Three of their six horses died of starvation during the winter and the other three were so weakened that they could not pull an empty wagon.

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The experiences of the colonists, however, were not without their cheering and encouraging phases. Little by little in the harsh school of experience the men learned how to cope with the elements and their once inexperience became in time experience of the most valuable character. They learned the lesson of moisture conservation, which is the a-b-c of non-irrigated farming. They learned also that they were "on their own" and that they must not delay preparing for winter until the first snow came. Little by little they gave up the idea of earning a living by working for neighboring ranch men and each month found the men putting more time in on their own farms. The inevitable result was that at the end of a few years the men became farmers rather than farm hands. They depended more upon the production of their farms than upon the money they might earn by working for others.

In brief, they became more and more independent each year and for the last three years their story has been that of a people almost completely restored to independence, successful in forcing the soil to yield and in marketing their products.

Where three horses and a few chickens constituted their entire equipment of livestock only nine years ago, every family now has its horses, dairy cows, hogs and poultry and several of them are running beef cattle on the open range. The colony which was born in the mind of O. T Jackson and which first came to life when he and Mr. Thomas established their claims in 1910 has grown until today in the colony itself and in the surrounding districts there are more than six hundred colored people living happily in prosperity. In the colony itself there is only one settler who has not received the patent to his land and he is a comparative newcomer, who purchased a relinquishment and is now prospering to an exceptional degree. As illustrating the increase in value which the colony has brought about it may be said that he paid $1400 for the relinquishment to land which only nine years ago was open for settlement without cost.

There are within the limits of the colony a school and two churches, both patronized wholly by the colored people of the district and both adding materially to the educational and moral standards of the community. The remarkable influence which the independence and freedom have had upon the settlers is indicated by the fact that since the first filing within the colony there has been but one arrest for an offense of any magnitude and the offender in that instance was not legitimately a resident of the settlement but had come only recently. The record which the colony has with the officers of the law in Weld county is exceptionally clean.

The activities of the Negroes, which for a number of years passed without exciting any interest among any except the neighboring ranchers, have recently attracted widespread attention and the colony is now frequently visited by representatives of business houses and by people whose interest in the enterprise has been aroused by the publicity given during the past few years. The State Agricultural college at Fort Collins has become interested and its president, Dr. Charles A. Lory, has promised to furnish the colored farmers with any expert assistance which they may need and which the college has available. During next spring several silos of the pit variety will be constructed, as Dr. H. T. French, head of the Extension service of the college, has assured the Negroes that their land is admirably adapted to this type. Domestic water is found at depths ranging from 16 to 85 feet and is almost invariably present in reliable and substantial volume. A number of windmills have been erected during the past two or three years and others will follow in larger numbers. Nothing has encouraged the colored settlers more than the ready assistance of the college men, the county agricultural agent and others whose work has to do with the development of agriculture.

A celebration was held at the colony on October 11, 1919, in honor of the presentation of a pure-bred Shorthorn bull by J. F. Welborn, president of the Colorado Fuel and Iron company. On that occasion Dr. French, Mr. T. J. Ehrhart of the State Highway commission, Professor M. E. Knapp, county agent, and a number of other prominent people were present. After the celebration Mr. Knapp paid a high tribute to the people of the colony, whom he has visited a number of times.

"They made an excellent showing this year despite the dry conditions," he said. "I have excellent samples of the corn raised this year and I am doing all I can to stimulate the dairy industry and better roads. I am now encouraging the growth of sweet potatoes as a special crop and expect to get the work under way next spring. The people of Dearfield have a fine spirit of determination to succeed and have made a good showing for both food and feed crops. With a shorter road to Masters, the nearest market, the colony will do very well. I think it promises well for the dairy industry and the growth of special vegetables of the garden truck variety."

Although there is no longer any vacant homestead land in sufficient areas to be attractive to newcomers, there are large bodies of state land adjoining and in the vicinity of the colony which at the expiration of immunity leases of stockmen may be purchased at reasonable prices. For those who have some capital to invest it is also possible to purchase farming tracts from white farmers whose land adjoins the colony and who in many instances own thousands of acres. Where at first the white rancher opposed the coming of the colored man, the industry and ambition of the latter have won him over and today the keenest spirit of cooperation exists between the men of the two races. Almost without exception they have worked together harmoniously for several years past.

The townsite of Dearfield contains 480 acres of land purchased from the state. It lies two miles south of Masters, a station on the Union Pacific railroad, and is almost midway between Greeley and Fort Morgan. The townsite is laid out in eight blocks containing 384 lots, surrounded by 5 and 10 acre tracts suitable for farming. There are splendid opportunities in the little town for men who are willing to work for the colored land owners and who establish themselves in business in the town, the small garden tracts being sufficient to help them become self-sustaining. At the present time there are seventeen people living on the townsite, which contains a general store operated until recently by Mr. Jackson, a cement block plant and a boarding house which is to be rebuilt at once into a 20-room hotel. The town constitutes the center of community spirit, but the colored farmers trade wherever they desire, their trade being solicited by white merchants in all the neighboring settlements. Because they have proved prompt in payment their credit is good and their trade is eagerly welcomed anywhere. The colony has a mutual telephone system and long distance connection with the outer world.

For several months the sale of tracts in the townsite has been in charge of S. C. Powell, formerly of Savannah, Missouri, and now of Denver. He has succeeded in advertising the colony widely and in disposing of a large number of tracts, besides aiding in the matter of interesting capital in the project.

One of the projects which the leaders of the settlement have in mind is the ultimate ownership of community farm equipment, including machinery of the larger and more expensive type. Within a short time, it is believed, the settlers will be able to purchase farm tractors, trucks, harvesters and threshing machines to be owned by all and used for the best advantage of the entire colony. One of the new business establishments recently announced is that of the Misher-Brown Loan and Brokerage company which has been organized by Henry Misher, a retired army man with twenty-seven years military experience, and J. D. Brown of Lamont, Mississippi. Both are colored men of wealth and they have incorporated a company capitalized at $20,000 for the purpose of extending financial aid to settlers on the townsite, aiding them in the erection of homes and in financing themselves until they become self-supporting. The farmers have received considerable financial backing from the colored Woodmen of the World, which organization now has about $13,000 loaned in the district.

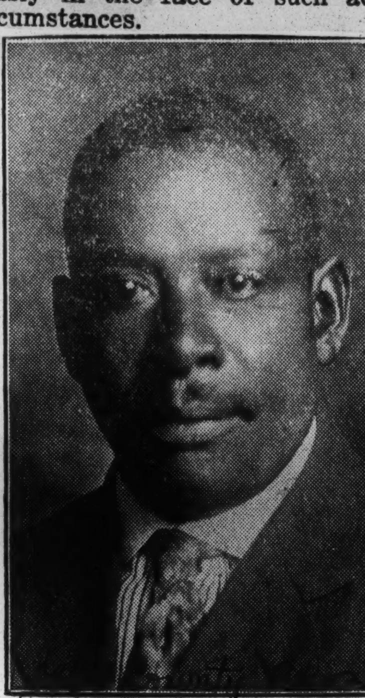
The tremendous development which the colored people have brought about since the days of raw prairie, the prairie dog and the coyote is best evidenced by the increased values which the development has brought to pass. Nine years ago there was nothing but the land good only for grazing and practically without value on the market. Today they own approximately 25,000 acres, valued conservatively from farm values in that neighborhood at $15 per acre, or a total of $375,000. Modest estimates of the value of their improvements brings a total of $185,000 and the value of livestock and poultry owned by the farmers is not less than an equal amount, making a total of $745,500 as the increase in values which they have wrought in the short space of nine years and despite the most severe discouragements. The value of the 1919 crop, which was far from exceptional because of drought conditions, was no less than $125,000. The importance of this increased property value and production to any county is evident, but even more important is the fact that coincident with this increase in value and production has been the development of independence and ambition in a race of people long strangers to these qualities.

In the story of the manner in which Dearfield was named lies the real secret of its success. Late in 1910, when the colonists were few and far between and the prospects for the future anything but bright, they discussed in one of their community meetings the name which they should give their settlement. Several names were suggested and discussed but in the end Dr. J. H. P. Westbrook, a Denver physician and one of the first of the settlers, suggested the name of Dearfield. "We plan to make this our home," he said. "These are to be our fields and because they are ours and because we expect and hope to develop them and make them into substantial homes, they will be very dear to us, so why not incorporate that sentiment in the name we select and call our colony Dearfield?"

That was the spirit which brought success to the colony. They were determined to make their homes there and to wrest their living from the soil. Their homes were dear to them so it followed that when discouragement came they did not abandon their dream but persisted in the face of adversity until they had won success. The colony some years ago won fame abroad to such extent that Mrs. Booker T. Washington, her son, Booker T. Washington, Jr., and his son, Booker T. Washington III, visited the colony and spent several days in going over the plans of the settlers and encouraging them to even greater efforts. And now that success has been achieved and the future seems comparatively safe, the interest of the people of Colorado has been aroused and Dearfield colony is now one of the well known institutions of northern Colorado. Of the fourteen Negro settlements in the United States, there are few which have grown so tremendously in the face of such adverse circumstances.

Weld County News 2/13/20

Mr. Thomas' Tenthouse in Early Colony Days



J. D. BROWN
of the Misher-Brown Company

Greeley, Col. 2/13/20

COLORED VILLAGE HOLDS GREAT CELEBRATION.

The [illegible]

(Associated Negro Press.)

7-10-1922

Robins, Ill., July—The incorporated village of Robbins, a suburb of Chicago, with all colored officials from Mayor to Chief of Police, held its annual patriotic celebration July fifth more than 5000 people being present. The program was under the direction of the village officials and the committee of 100, headed by Mayor Kellar.

The speakers were Prof. W. W. Fisher, James Hale Porter, B. W. Fitts editor of the Chicago Searchlight and Nahum Daniel Brescher of The Associated Negro Press. All of the addresses teamed with the spirit of Americanism and pride of race.

The village has a population of more than 1,000 and bids fair to reach 5,000 within the next few years.

Whites for Jim Crow Town; Race Goes North

The Chicago Defender 7-7-17

Memphis, Tenn., July 16.—White people here are jubilant over the plan fostered by [illegible] W. Sanford, president of the Sol[illegible] Savings Bank and Trust Company, which has as its purpose the establishing of [illegible] station exclusively for our people. The separate town is to be known as "Lincoln City." Sanford has 500 acres of land near Raine's Station and contemplates subdividing this tract into city lots and five-acre plots of ground.

White people here view the proposition as the greatest move toward stopping the exodus of our people to the North and are said to be encouraging the movement. Thousands of people plan to leave here by August for Detroit, Cleveland, Chicago and Flint, Mich., and the white people are viewing the situation with great alarm.

Towns and Settlements-1930

Colorado

Dearfield Colo,

WESTERN TOWN CLAIMS IDEAL LOCATION

Modern Farmer

WELD COUNTY AN AGRICULTURAL AS WELL AS RESIDENTIAL PLACE

1-15-30

Nashville, Tenn

Dearfield was established on May 5, 1910, primarily as an agricultural community for colored people. It was the first step in a program of self-help for the Negroes of the United States planned by its founder, O. T. Jackson, who felt that the people of his race should be given an opportunity to achieve a degree of independence through agriculture which they could not experience as long as they continued to sell their services to others for a daily wage.

Almost from the first the project flourished. There were lean years in the early days of the settlement bcause the men and women who came to take up the land were not experienced in farming methods and knew little of the problems of agriculture. Year by year, however, their efforts counted for more, and within a comparatively short time the colony was an outstanding example of what can be accomplished by hard work and devotion. They learned the best methods of conserving the moisture on the non-irrigated plains, and the crops which are best adapted to culture in that region.

Attracted by their success, white farmers began moving into the territory to take advantage of the cheap lands offered for sale, and today there are both white and colored farmers working harmoniously together in the region, striving for the independence which successful farming brings to the people of both races.

Location—Dearfield is located in Weld County, Colorado, seventy-two miles northeast of Denver and about twenty-five miles southeast of Greeley, the county seat of Weld county. It lies in the valley of the Platte river, between the Burlington and Union Pacific railroads, the townsite being about three miles north of tho former and two miles south of the later. The presence of both railroads with stations at frequent intervals, guarantees acceptable trans portation facilities during the entire year, while good highways leading to Denver, Greeley, Fort Morgan and other large nearby markets are always kept in excellent condition and provide a reliable outlet by trucks for the more intensive crops raised in the district.

Modern Farmer

Located originally in Weld county because of the fact that at that time there were large areas of government land to be had at nominal prices, the settlement has spread from its original boundaries and now covers considerably more than the acerage included at first. Conveniently located with reference to the surrounding farming territory, the townsite of Dearfield consists of 480 acres platted to blocks and lots suitable for business and residence purposes The purpose of the townsite is to provide a central gathering place for the people of the district, to provide them with the necessary business houses, as well as residences for those not desiring to occupy the farm lands. There are also non-platted lots of from five to ten acres surrounding the townsite, adapted to dairying, poultry raising and truck farming. There is always a good market for the products of these tracts within easy reach from the settlement. These tracts also are suited for those who prefer to do farm or machanical work by the day in the settlement or on the neighboring farms, and to make their homes in or near the community of Dearfield.

Weld County—Weld county, in which the Dearfield settlement is located, is in itself, an agricultural empire. Ranking third in area among the 63 counties of Colorado, it is easily first in the value of its agricultural products. Its altitude varies from 4,400 feet on the eastern boundary, near Dearfield, to about 5,000 feet on the higher benches along the western boundary. It is crossed by the Platte river and by many of its tributaries, which come down to the plains regions from the mountains to the west. Its principal industries are farming, stockraising, stockfeeding, coal mining and manufacturing, the manufacturing institutions consisting largely of plants constructed for the manufacture of beet sugar, flour, condensed milk and other products whose raw materials are to be found among the farm products of the county. It is the greatest sugar beet county in the world, that crop being grown extensively on the irrigated lands along the Platte and its tributaries, and is one of the richest stockfeeding regions in the West.

Agriculture—Although many other crops are grown on the irrigated lands, the lands of the Dearfield settlement, lying in the non-irrigated section, are best adapted to the production of beans, wheat, oats and other small grains, corn, forage crops and melons. The district is noted for the splendid quality of the watermelons and cantaloupes which it produces, and because of its proximity to good markets, it is always possible to find a ready sale for these products.

Weld county maintains an agricultural agent whose duty it is to work among the farmers, advising them as to the best methods of farming and the care of livestock.

Reference

For references as to the founder of Dearfield and its present representatives, or as to the quality of farm land, present development, etc., anyone who is interested may write to any of the following:

Colorado State Board of Immigration, 130 State Office Bldg., Denver, Colo.

E. D. Foster, editor the Weld County Farm News, Greeley, Colo.

County Agricultural Agent, Greeley, Colo.

The State Board of Immigration is equipped to give to inquirers full information concerning the farming development of Weld county, the average yields of crops and similar matters. In co-operation with the Bureau of Crop and Livestock Estimates of the United States Department of Agriculture it prepares and publishes authentic information concerning the acerage and production of crops, which may be had without charge on application.

The State of Colorado has no funds from which to pay the railroad or other traveling expenses of farmers or others who desire to come to the state, and the founder of Dearfield is not financially able to do so, but all inquiries will be answered promptly and all possible information will be mailed on request.

STATISTICS OF WELD COUNTY

General Information

Area in acres	2,574,080
Acres of irrigated land	362,000
Acres of non-irrigated farm land	730,000
Acres cultivated in 1928	626,600
Number of farms in 1928	3,334
Total farm acerage, 1928	1,181,000
Population, 1925 census	62,489
Value of farm property, 1925	$ 84,835,165
Tons of coal produced, 1928	1,943,313
Assessed property value, 1928	$104,345,960
Number of district schools	230
Public school enrollment	18,278
Miles of highways	6,340

Acres of Crops Harvested, 1928

Corn	80,000
Winter wheat	60,010
Spring wheat	72,200
Barley	71,350
Oats	16,200
Rye	10,370
Potatoes	32,200
Sorghums	10,529
Hay	147,760
Dry Beans	62,950
Sugar beets	53,600
Miscellaneous crops	9,440
Value of farm crops	$ 17,277,680

+, Towns

A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY FOR INDUSTRIOUS COLORED PEOPLE TO FARM AND BECOME EMPIRE BUILDERS FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR GROUP.

Dearfield, Colorado,
1931

Dear Friend:

I am writing you in advance of your visit to Colorado in June, 1931, as a delegate or visitor attending the Baptist Sunday School Convention.

I am sure you will have the most wonderful trip of your life; all Colorado will welcome you and extend to you a welcome hand---no Jim Crow in Colorado--The people of Colorado are noted for their general hospitality. There is a larger majority of Colored people owning their homes in Colorado than in any other state of the Union. Their homes are modern, very comfortably furnished, and some most lavishly furnished, and they are very generous in their plans for entertaining visiting guests. Our churches are of the modern type and are fully equipped to take care of large gatherings.

I hope you will avail yourself of this opportunity to see Colorado. Colorado is known for its scenery, both in its mountains and its valleys. Remember that the great city of Denver is not all there is to Colorado. Other towns and cities of the State are just as attractive and interesting. Opportunities for our people in day work and the business field are very good.

Our rural districts offer many inducing advantages for good farmers, dairy, poultry, hogs, and truck gardening. Our lands are cheap and sold on easy reasonable terms. A trip through our eastern farming district should be included in your plans, also a visit to our Agricultural College; the sugar and canning factories; also our packing houses, where there is the best market in the world for all kind of produce.

The Governor of Colorado is a farmer and stockman. A visit to the State Capitol will be long remembered by you. Our Governor will be glad to welcome you, and the cordial greetings received from him and the kindly chat with him will linger long in your memory.

The State Museum opposite the State Capitol Building contains specimens of all the produce, historical, modern, and of many undeveloped resources of the State.

Many of our people who come to Colorado see only Denver and conclude that that is all there is to Colorado. Tourists of other groups come and see Colorado outside of Denver. Many are attracted to one locality or another and make their homes here, others tell their friends who are contemplating a change of residence of the advantages found here for capable and deserving people.

There are thousands of our young people now living in the large cities who are crowded out and have no room for expansion. Colorado has 66,000,000 acres of land and only one-sixth of it is occupied, so there is a wonderful opportunity to acquire a rural home on virgin soil at a very nominal price on practically your own terms, which you can develop to your own ideas and comfort.

One of the greatest oil fields of the United States has just opened up in Colorado, and the development of it is opening up work for thousands of people.

Mr. Clarence Darrow said in his speech in Chicago at the N.A. A.C.P. meeting, that "Colored People would ~~not~~ have to depend upon their own resources." This speech is a fair warning to Colored People that they should begin to look around for opportunities to build for their future maintenance, as the day of a job man and woman is passing. Our only hope is in the soil and to build up communities upon the vacant lands and to establish businesses for our future young.

Colorado has the location for the settlement of thousands of Colored People who are without opportunities where they now reside.

On your visit to Colorado do not be content to leave the state without having investigated its resources. Mr. Emmett Williams, whose office is at 2727 Welton Street, will be glad to welcome you and give you any information you desire concerning these locations. He is very much interested in Eastern Colorado lands and oil leases.

The writer of this message is Messenger to the Governor and is always glad to furnish our visitors with information concerning the state and its government.

Hoping to meet you while in our state and that you may have a very pleasant as well as interesting visit, and that you may become interested in our state; that if you are contemplating a change in your location, you will come to Colorado and make your home where there is open territory and many opportunities for the deserving and industrious class of our group. Colorado can accomodate 100,000 colored families and they would appear on the surface as a drop of ink in a five-gallon pail of milk, located throughout the state upon the vacant lands.

Please pass this letter on to your friend who may be planning to attend the convention, or write The Colorado Association, Denver, for information about mountain scenery and trips and be posted as to what you want to see while in our glorious state.

Very truly yours,

O. T. Jackson.

Messenger to the Governor
of the State of Colorado.

MOORISH-COMPLEXIONED PEOPLE IN DELAWARE

Wilmington Advocate 6/11/21

Editor Everybody's Column:—The State official whom you once consulted on this subject was inaccurate in his statement.

Colonial records of the State show that a colony of Moors started for this country the same as did the Pilgrim Fathers, Huguenots and other emigrants to escape religious persecution—in this case, it being the Spanish Inquisition.

They were wrecked at the mouth of the Indian river below Lewes, Delaware, and scattered throughout Sussex county.

Unquestionably, in the intervening two hundred years or more, there was some inter-marriage with Nanticote Indians and Negro ex-slaves, but at the me of the Civil War court proceedings at Georgetown, Delaware, proved he rights of these light-colored people o Moorish ancestry and not to Indian r Negro stock.

Isaac Harmon, a wealthy farmer, instituted suit to be permitted to possess and carry fire-arms during the Civil War when a law was passed denying this right to the Negroes of Delaware and I think the Indians in the Southwestern States.

His suit was successful and his ancestry proven as originating with the ship-wrecked Moors; and a further interesting fact is, that on Chincoteague Island there is an existing herd of wild ponies, dwarf in size, but which originated from the Barb or Arabian stock that swam ashore at the time of the ship wreck and have ever since remained in a wild state on this island.

Records at Georgetown, Delaware, and at the Historical Society in Wilmington, will prove these statements.

H. B. M.—In Philadelphia Inquirer.

Moorish-complexioned people in Delaware

West Palm Beach, Fla. Post
November 3, 1940

Addis Ababa Is Name Of Negro Subdivision

Addis Ababa has been selected as the name for a new subdivision for negroes to be developed in Riviera, it has been announced by Peter J. Yancey, who purchased the 13-acre tract from the West Palm Beach Development Company.

Yancey said the land has been divided into residential lots and he plans to rock the streets and make other improvements, looking toward a high-class negro development. Streets in the subdivision are to be named for other cities in Ethiopia whose capital of which country provided the name for the development.

Studstill and Hollenbeck, Inc., were brokers in the sale handled by R. L. Callaway.

Addis Ababa Sub-division
near West Palm Beach
Fla

Towns and Settlements- 1938

Florida.

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Negro Town Will Elect New Mayor

Washington News

7-30-38

EATONVILLE, Fla., July 27 ANP).—Mayor W. L. Lindsay announced on July 18 that this year's annual election of local officers will be held on Aug. 18.

Among Eatonville's inhabitants, in number about 300, is Miss Zora Neale Hurston, author of "Their Eyes Were Watching God," "Mules and Men" and "Jonah's Gourd Vine."

Political circles are now buzzing as the campaign for mayor and other offices get under way. Candidates for mayor are Howard Miller and L. N. Johnson. The present incumbent has announced he will not seek to succeed himself.

The year in Eatonville's history when the mayor was elected by an overwhelming majority of 11 to 3 is still remembered.

Registered voters are expected to turn out in greater numbers this year, according to observers.

A full slate of town officers will be elected, including a tax assessor, clerk, marshall and members of the council. Eatonville has no jail and is an all-colored town

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FLA. COUNCIL BRANCH IN ALL-NEGRO TOWN

EATONVILLE, Fla., Dec. 24—Citizens of Eatonville, the only all-Negro town in Florida, met at St. Lawrence A.M.E. church on Tuesday night and organized a local branch of the Florida Negro Citizens' Council. The church was filled to capacity when students and tutors of Hungerford school entered the building.

Capt. L. E. Hall was elected president; Rev. R. H. Johnson, vice-president; Mrs. Ida M. Stoggers, secretary; Mrs. C. A. Smith, assistant secretary and Mayor H. A. Miller, treasurer.

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Sam B. Solomon, executive secretary of the State Council was the principal speaker and explained why active branches in all cities of Florida will advance the effort for political, civic and economic freedom for Florida Negroes.

PITTSBURGH COURIER
Pittsburgh, Pa.
December 27, 1941

RESIDENCE OF MIAMI TO INCORPORATE CITY

50

Weely Review
Birmingham, A

MIAMI, FLA.—Willie Moses of 2630 N. W. 50tr St. has filed notice of intent to incorporate what may prove to be Dade County's first—and the State's second—colored City His petition, filed in accordance with State law said that a meeting would be held June 14 at his home to elect officers and set the wheels rolling for a new municipality.

About one square mile in the northwest section of the country adjoining Miami and Hialeah, the area is currently occupied by 65 to 70% colored property owners. Accoding to State records, Eatonville near Orlando and home of Hungerford School, is the State's only colored municipality. Sat. 5-29-4

The notice immediately aroused white opposition, the same type which defeated a previous move by the county to rezone a nearby area for colored occupancy. Opposition, however, is expected to materialize through the courts rather than in threeats or violence which have decreased in recent years. 5-29-4

Eatonville, Fla

50 1955

EATONVILLE, FLORIDA

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Negro Town Must Halt Sabbath Liquor Sales

Defender Sat. 3-5-55 Chicago Ill.

50

EATONVILLE, Fla. — Faced with the alternative of losing the charter it has held since 1866, this all-Negro community of thriving citrus groves, is planning to abandon its main source of revenue—Sunday liquor sales.

Mayor C. H. Crooms and the town council plan passage of a resolution for the stoppage of Sunday sales.

The resolution is designed to forestall a threat that the 1955 Legislature will revoke Eatonville's charter. Whites of surrounding communities alledgedly have been aroused by the fact that "young white women from Winter Park, Orlando and other nearby communities are coming here to buy liquor."

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There is belief in some quarters that the anti-Eatonville action is sponsored by retail liquor dealers jealous of the fact that the Negro-owned liquor stores here are the only places in the community where liquor can be bought on Sunday.

The liquor revenue, which is considerable, makes it possible for Eatonville to institute badly-needed public improvements such as the sorely-needed new water system and other innovations.

Eight persons appeared befor State Sen. J. B. Rodgers, jr. an State Reps. Heney Land and William C. Coleman, jr. to ask revocation of Sunday and all-nigh sales L. H. Benson, of Maitland was the person who suggested tha the town's charter be revoked, placing it under county regulation of beverage sales and law enforcement. Benson contended that h had been forced to sell his ow property at a loss because of accidents and boisterousness whic he attributed to Sunday drinkers

Lester A. Harris, attorney fo the town, pledged that the resolution cutting off Sunday and all night sales would be passed before the 1955 legislature convened

Pittsburgh Courier p. 3 Sat. 1-13-62 Pittsburgh, Pa.

NEW DEVELOPMENT—Ribbon-cutting ceremonies are shown for Catalina Park, a new development in the all-Negro town of Eatonville, Fla., with Mayor C. H. Crooms doing the honors, with Mrs. Croom by his side. Looking on are Mr. Huffman, owner and developer; City Attorney Richard Harris; Mrs. Catherine Alexander, city clerk; Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Mosley, Council president; Councilman and Mrs. Henry Harrell, Councilman and Mrs. Charles Reed and Councilman and Mrs. Lucius Marshall.

Towns and Settlements—1923.

Georgia

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Savannah, Ga. NEWS

JUL 2 1923

MODERN NEGRO SETTLEMENT.

Many in Georgia—indeed over the South and the North—will be watching in the next few months the progress of a project recently inaugurated in Augusta, where a modern—in object, too, it is claimed, a "model"—negro settlement is to be established. A tract of seventy acres, fourteen city blocks, has been purchased by an exclusive negro corporation with a million dollar capital. The estate is to be cut up into lots and dwellings are to be erected for sale to reliable negroes and their families on easy terms. The company will handle the real estate transactions, subsidiary companies will do the building of the homes, will direct a farm bureau for the community, will perform other and sundry necessary offices for the settlement, even to the printing that a negro settlement of the kind proposed will need. The corporation is in the venture, of course, as a business deal and hopes to clear money in the development of the settlement, but it is said that the character of the financial and operative leaders of the scheme is such that something even better than profits to the promoting corporation are planned and earnestly desired: The provision of modern homes to many worthy negro families. Such projects as this, if properly conducted, should go a long way toward making the negro willing to remain in the South and catch the inspiration that comes only to those who have a "stake" in the community.

BETTER HOMES FOR NEGROES.

Montgomery

Advertiser

The Augusta Chronicle tells of a movement under way in that city to better the conditions under which negroes live. Better homes will be provided—a good start in the right direction.

The Chronicle says that the development project is in the hands of enterprising negroes in Augusta and Atlanta. They have taken over a vast tract of land in the south side of the city of Augusta, consisting of 475 lots, each lot being 40 feet wide and over 100 feet deep. The company bought the property for $132,500 and is preparing now to build a group of about 25 model houses to be sold to negroes on easy terms of payment. It is believed that this group of houses will be followed by other groups and the type of houses will be such "that the purchaser will be proud to call them homes."

9-22-23

After mentioning other evidences of progress by negro business men of Augusta, the editor says:

The Chronicle feels that Augustans generally are proud of the achievements of our colored people and the white people of the community will do everything possible to encourage them to accomplish bigger and bigger things. We believe that the city of Augusta should take up seriously in the very near future the question of paving Gwinnett street. This should be done whether this street is opened from Druid Park Avenue to Hickman road this year or not. The negroes on that street are large tax payers, they want the street paved, and since the property owners have to pay two-thirds of the actual cost of the pavement, the city can well afford to put up one-third. It would be a splendid encouragement to the colored people who have put their money and their faith in Augusta for the ctiy to give them support in every way possible and nothing better can be done as a starter than to pave Gwinnett street. One of the big plans in the development of the Verdery tract is the cutting of a street running east and west through the property. The city can co-operate in this plan, since every house put up on the new street will mean additional taxes for the city, will mean the conversion of a vacant lot into a home.

"In Augusta there is greater amity between the white and colored races than almost any city in the country, North or South. When negroes left here for the North they did it for purely economic reasons. We know that they had rather live here than anywhere else. We can encourage them to stay here by giving them better streets, schools and showing them that they are, indeed, a valued portion of the community. There are many very substanital negroes in Augusta, some of them having amassed considerable wealth. Hundreds of them own homes now, and we hope they will be increased to thousands, and if the development of the Verdery tract means the construction of 475 neat, commodious and modern homes on that many lots, the development will be one which will prove of vast worth to this community from the standpoint of increased property values. Indeed, the building program which is contemplated is going to turn loose large sums of money by providing work for a large number of men over a long period."

The good relations existing betwen white and black in Augusta, as described by the Chronicle, are a tribute to the character of both whites and blacks in that community, a tribute which persons informed of the tone of life in Augusta are prepared to grant.

Returning to the ambitious real estate scheme of the negro company, we are reminded to remark how singular a thing it is that real estate men in the South have generally overlooked opportunities to do much the same thing that is now, probably out of necessity, about to be attempted by negroes in Augusta.

There have been few far-reaching schemes of real estate development undertaken to capitalize the manifest need of negroes for better homes. To a superficial observer of the question, it would seem that here is a promising, but neglected field—to build a series of model homes for negroes on such terms as they can meet. Not expensive and pretentious homes, but neat cottages, built on plans designed with some taste, better homes than negroes have ben accustomed to.

If such building projects could but be made financially profitable to the builders, there is no doubt that they would be profitable from other standpoints. Negroes would be healthier if better housed. Negroes would be more contented, if better housed. The example of a few negroes moving into model houses should tend to stimulate the pride and ambition of the masses of negroes, and thus increase the demand for better homes. This would tend to reduce the size of unsightly areas in every Southern city, and improve property values generally.

Some day somebody is going to make money by capitalizing this idea.

negro community in Augusta, Ga.-

Towns-1912 1912

BUY A FARM

At Cannonville, Ga.

Cannonville is a town and is controlled absolutely by colored people. Not a single man of any other race lives there; neither does any man of any other race live in sight of this town. It is on the Atlanta & West Point Railroad, 78 miles west of Atlanta. This is the home of the I. B. O. Industrial School.

The I. B. O. owns fifty acres of land in this town in which is their School and home for Orphans and Widows. There are 500 acres of land adjoining this town, within fifteen minutes walk of the station, and I can sell you all or any part of it.

For prices and terms address,

W. S. CANNON

5 1-2 South Broad St. ATLANTA, GA.

"The Truth" Atlanta Ga. 9-15-12

RAILROAD MEN ORGANIZE

The Amalgamated Railroad Employees Association is the name of the organization recently founded by the Pennsylvania Red Caps, with the follow officers: Ulysses Reed, president; W. S. Coles, financial secretary; A. L. Hughes, treasurer, and G. N. Williams, recording secretary.

The association wishes it known that it is not a labor body, having for its purpose the establishment of similar institutions as the railroad branches of the Y. M. C. A. and the raising of the standard of manhood and efficiency among the Negro railroad employees.

Age 6-1-11

Savannah, Ga.. News
June 11, 1933

DAUFUSKIE, PAST AND PRESENT

Daufuskie is a familiar name to all Savannahians, although very few white Savannahians have probably ever visited its shores. Every one perhaps has had a cook or a maid who has felt it necessary on one or two occasions during the summer to get off for a day to go on a picnic on this island, whose tree lined beach is clearly visible from the shores of Tybee. Daufuskie seems almost as much a part of Georgia as does Tybee or any other sea island near us, and seems as much attached in its life to this city as it does to South Carolina.

Daufuskie, a writer in the Charleston News and Courier tells us, "offers a dreamer's paradise." It is of interest to know that it has sixty-odd white residents, a number of them with names of Scandinavian origin. At one time its broad acres made up prosperous plantations, but today there is only a limited area on which crops are grown. Its territory of six miles long and three miles wide is for the most part a wilderness. The six hundred negroes constitute a rather distinct class, and in Savannah a Daufuskie negro is readily recognized by all acquainted with that species of the descendants of slaves who have been left for a half century or more to work out their destinies amid natural surroundings.

Fish and shrimp and crabs constitute the source of income of many of these Daufuskieites. As the writer in question remarks, "Why should the negro wear himself out planting cotton, corn and vegetables when the generous ocean provides daily provender, and sufficient overplus to convert into their simple necesities?" Then there is the oyster factory which gives some of them an opportunity for riches, and the government dredges likewise furnish employment for a number, and now Reconstruction Finance funds are being used to ditch and drain the island. A recent large ditch is said to be the first constructed since the War Between the States.

Backward though Daufuskie now seems from modern standards of life, with a mail boat coming in three times a week, and its white inhabitants with no church, and only twelve pupils in the white school, and the negroes not yearning for mental uplift, it is interesting to know that at one time Captain John Mungin, who got the island as a grant from the King of England, lived in great style on this domain, with the remains of tabby slave quarters still lining the bluff. The Stoddard family also connects with its early history, and this author says the first came there as a tutor for the Mungin children, later married the daughter of the family, and thus secured possession of the plantations. One Stoddard house is still standing, said to be a century old. When the Civil War came on another Stoddard house was surrounded by a magnificent garden, maintained by an imported English gardener, and hot houses in which were over two hundred kinds of plants. Like other sea islands Daufuskie once had its large crops of long staple cotton that for many years made its planters wealthy.

Daufuskie with its memories brings back, as so many other sea islands do, pictures of the South before the Civil War. So far it has escaped reconstruction by northern sportsmen.

Dempsey Wooten, 83, Is Taken by Death

Telegraph

QUITMAN, Ga., Sept. 27.—Dempsey Wooten, Negro, one of the most remarkable characters in this section, died Saturday evening at the hospital in Thomasville and funeral services will be held tomorrow afternoon at the Simmons Hill Baptist church.

9-28-33

He was 83 years old, had 16 children, 11 of whom survive him. His children and children's children number over 100.

He was a trustee of the Central City college, a Baptist Negro college in Macon.

Quitman, Ga.

Wooten has developed one of the most unusual Negro communities in the state, people who own their farms, who have a very unusual model school, with the only vocational agricultural training in the county, people who never figure in court cases.

Quitman, Ga.
Daufuskie, Georgia

89-1945

Georgia

GM Pays $400 Per Acre to Build Model Negro Community

Pittsburgh Courier

By SPIKE WASHINTON, Special Correspondent

12-29-45 Pittsburgh, Pa.

Doraville Community

Ga.

ATLANTA, Ga.—One of those giant, impersonal corporations heard so much about during these weary after-war days has extended a tentacle out at Doraville, near here, to help build a model Negro community. So generous was this corporation that it paid an average of $400 an acre for land in the rural DeKalb community, adjoining Atlanta and gave one Negro cook $21,000 for some forty acres.

In turn, the corporation bought 100 acres of beautiful woods, thick with pines and oaks, and sold them to the Negro families for $150 an acre, less than the cost to the corporation.

When General Motors was preparing to buy 350 acres at Doraville for its assembly plant, it was found that a Negro settlement of eight houses spread out for 150 acres over the site. The families had lived there for as long as seventy years. They were respectable citizens of Doraville, most of them farming, carpentering or working as cooks in the white homes and schools.

Pa.

RELUCTANT TO SELL

Negro people of the community had become wary and frightened when a white man asked them to sell their homes and move, and in the community is Tom Graham, who had been driven out of Forsyth County with other members of his race many years ago. Graham was good-natured about the General Motors proposition, but he didn't want to move out. The others didn't know what to do and had feared about where they would go if they sold at Doraville, because they know how difficult in these times to find homes. There was no dice.

Scott Candler, commissioner at DeKalb, realizing what the General Motors plant would mean to his county, called upon M. E. Smith, school superintendent for North DeKalb's district, and asked him to talk with the Negro landowners. Candler made promises to Smith for his approach. Smith presented the plan to the Negro landowners and they gave in.

These people who were living in shacks and shabby houses, without running water or sewerage or other modern conveniences, now have seen a transformation.

COMFORTABLE HOMES

The model community, now under construction off Shallow Ford Road, offers these Negro people comfortable, modern homes, with bathrooms. Candler has already seen to it that the road is being cut and the black water pipes are lying beside the ditches.

No shacks or sagging houses will be allowed. The school and church have been transferred from their old locations. New asbestos sides protect the school from fire and a cafeteria will be added.

Restricted to Negroes only, the extraordinary community lies outside the city limits of Doraville. A block has been set aside for business establishments and another tract for a cemetery.

"CARVER HILLS"

The painted houses, their hardwood floors resting on cement foundations, will cost up to $5,000. The eight families were allowed to buy up to four acres of land in the development, and other Negroes may purchase lots after the original group completes its selections. All lots will boast a frontage of at least 100 feet. The homes must be built, and are being built at a minimum of forty feet from the road. 12-29-45

Candler has named the community "Carver Hills" after the late Dr. George Washington Carver, Tuskegee's brilliant scientist, and it is believed the community will deserve its name.

Towns and Settlement-1932

Georgia

Unique Negro Community Center Is Opened in Hancock County

(The following article on "Springfield," the unique negro community center which opens today in Hancock county, is by Z. T. Hubert, the founder of the center, and for many years one of the leading negro educators in the south. Photographs of the center appear in the rotogravure section of this issue of The Constitution.)

Constitution

BY Z. T. HUBERT,

For Years College President and Specialist in Agriculture.

Personally I am interested in Springfield because it is the place of my birth and early manhood. It is the place also where I have invested my earnings in farm land, backing my faith in the possibilities of better living in a wider and more resourceful way through the teachings of science, business methods and co-operation in farm affairs.

Atlanta, Ga.

One recalls that much has been written and spoken about Springfield and for several reasons it is perhaps the most widely known project with a "forward to the farm" slogan. But aside from generalities and newspaper publicity what are the facts? Is there a real and substantial basis or background to the Springfield community project? The public has a right to know.

7-24-32

Today the public will be invited to visit the project and witness the opening of Log Cabin—a community center, and observe something of the spirit actuating the enterprise. But for the wider and more intimate knowledge of persons interested and for those who may not be privileged to make the trip I am first allowing the camera to tell a story of homes—some among the many. A group of these pictures appear in the rotogravure section of this issue of The Constitution.

If these pictures add somewhat to the certainty or lend assurance, and let me add, there are many more and equally as good, permit me to give something definite as to land ownership.

Connected Negro Land Owners.

No claim to perfection by any means is made as to the present status of things at Springfield. It is, however, in many respects different. A distinctive and basic feature is ownership of the land. Any assurance of progress and permanence in family and community life is based upon home and land ownership and, in this particular project, it has assumed definite and decided proportions. Beginning years ago with the purchase of 150 acres of land by three brothers who felled the trees, cleared the ground and without any outside aid out of the proceeds of the farm paid in full there is at this time acreage reaching into the thousands.

For the benefit of any "doubting Thomases," and there are always some who like to be shown, we are listing 25 men and women farm owners:

Gordon Dixon owns 900 acres, Ed Cooper 54 acres, B. F. Hubert 500, Floyd Hubert 180, William Johnson 120, John W. Hubert 690, Floyd Lewis 40, Pelham Skrine 185, Tom Skrine 150, Lucius Skrine 75, Rosa Johnson 35, John Johnson 45, Matilda Johnson 35, Susie Johnson 35, Ed Turner 75, Stephen McGee 100, Crockett Ruff 100, Fred Lewis 100, John Lewis 75, Walton Hill 160, Endie Washington 75, William Thomas 60, Z. T. Hubert 735, Viola Williams 60 and many others who could just as well be placed in this list.

Not Promotion Scheme.

It will be observed then that this is in no sense a promotion scheme or device to sell people land. In fact, no solicitation whatever is made outsiders and certainly only those who could become properly settled and who would enter whole-heartedly into the spirit of the community would be welcomed.

The present leaders of the movement, however, feel that for those who have obtained this footing and acquired these holdings there remain yet a larger and fuller more satisfying life through co-operation in definite community farm programs.

And if this is possible at Springfield why not in hundreds of other rural communities. With the ownership of land, community of interests and under negro leadership, can we develop social units self-sufficient as positive state and national assets? Springfield then is distinctly a challenge to negro manhood, courage, initiative.

Springfield, Ga-

This Clipping from

Mullings S. C., Enterprise
March 23, 1939

Log Cabin Community Center

1939

Ben Hubert

The Enterprise, Mullins, S. C.

1939

Negroes Solve Their Own Problem; Without Any Government Money

By MARK TEMPLE

Mayfield, Ga., March 19—This is the story of another project—a farm project—but there are no government millions involved, no alphabetical organizations in charge, no federal benefits asked.

It is a homely tale which starts shortly after the civil war when three negro slaves, finding themselves free and dependent upon the community, set about to better their own condition and the condition of their friends and neighbors.

The result is known today as "Log Cabin Community," a section in Hancock county in east-middle Georgia, where more than 100 negro families own 27,000 acres of land, and where they live hard working, Christian lives, send their children to school and college, and prosper in peace and contentment of their own making.

To tell the tale completely one must start at the beginning, which was in 1868 when Zach Floyd and David Hubert crossed the sluggish Oggeechee river from Warren to Hancock county in quest of a home.

A white man, advised that the young negro freedom desired a place of their own, directed them to this section of the state and made arrangements by which they could buy 165 acres of land at $10 per acre.

The young negroes had nothing to offer but their promise to pay in three equal installments. At the end of three years they had paid up every dollar of the debt, and the deeds were in their possession.

But Zach, Floyd and David were not content. They had married and children were coming along. They wanted those children to have some of the opportunities denied their parents. So they built a schoolhouse, and a church.

After clearing their land, they began to prosper. White residents around them recognized the true purpose of the negro neighbors and enabled the children of the three brothers to go to school. Today the community probably has sent more of its young people away to college than any similar rural community in Georgia.

The present development, sometimes called Springfield community, did not get underway until after 1926, when Zach Hubert, and his wife, Camilla, died. They had brought 12 children into the world, and educated them all.

Before their death, the elderly couple had, by hard work and rigid economy, gotten together over 400 acres of good farm land—every inch of it was paid for.

What should be done with this land? The Hubert children decided that one of them, Benjamin F. Hubert (now president of Georgia State College for negroes at Savannah) should take it over and Benjamin made his father's land serve members of his race.

He realized that his people needed some way of cooperative economic activity, recreation, improvement of health and development of schools and churches. The Log Cabin Community center was the first part of the answer.

This center, planned, built and furnished by negroes, is made of native rock and stone and other materials right at hand. It serves as a nucelus for community life of negroes living nearby, and is in continuous use for exhibits, plays, lectures and social get-to-gethers.

Since the center was dedicated in 1932, there has been constructed around it a health center, a rural parsonage, a swimming pool and a cooperative community store.

The school has been expanded and improved.

Pure-bred hogs, beef cattle and chickens have been introduced.

The people have been encouraged to grow crops which may be canned for their own use and sale.

Flour is made from wheat produced in the community, a soil improvement program is being carried forward, and electric lights soon will be a reality.

A summer school for rural negro teachers is held each summer by the Georgia State College of the University of Georgia system, cooperating with the local county school board.

Summer training camps for boys and girls are annuals; wild life camps and farm conferences for the people of middle Georgia are frequent. The Episcopal Diocese of Georgia this summer will hold a religious training camp for negro youth.

Negro colleges and universities, Benjamin Hubert says, "have talked about a farm program and have furnished technical information to their students, but there has been little or no attempt to bring down to earth the theories expressed in textbooks.

"Negroes have gone to college, and after leaving college have gone to urban centers. The college has, in many instances, unfitted the negro for the job of community leadership. Nowhere has there been a real, honest-to-goodness attempt to apply the theories worked out in college."

But in this log cabin community, "we are attempting to sell to the negroes there, and to the many negroes all over the south the independence and joy

NEGRO FARMING UNIT MADE GOOD IN DIXIE

50

After the Civil War ended in 1865 three brothers freed from slavery bought 165 acres of land at $10 an acre in central Georgia, the first farm land ever purchased by Negroes in that state.

Jan 8-49

From this piece of property has developed the Log Cabin Community at Mayfield, hailed by sociologists as demonstrating that farm people stimulated by capable leaders can make their local life attractive and satisfying regardless of color.

The three pioneer brothers were Zack, David and Floyd Hubert. They cleared the land, planted and harvested the crops and by their hard work paid off the purchase price of their property in three years.

New York N.Y.

As related in a pamphlet of the Log Cabin Community Center, it was the Huberts wno started the movement that resulted in the building of a church and public school and fired the determination of other members of their race to help widen and improve the infant Negro community.

After the three original leaders died, their descendants carried on and the community continued to flourish. Today the group can show for its efforts a modern community center, health center and recreation grounds with a swimming pool.

The large number of prosperous farms in operation gives evidence of the latest agricultural innovations. Soil conservation is practiced and every year the community presents awards to the Negro farmers chosen winners in soil conservation work in each of the Southern states.

Towns and Settlements - 1938

Georgia
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Negroes' Dreams Of Prosperous Life Come True In Georgia Community

BY HAROLD TYLER

[illegible] 11-13-38 [illegible] Ga.

QUITMAN, Ga.—(AP)—Dreams of Negro slaves, who more than 70 years ago settled down as freemen in rural Brooks county, have come true in prosperous Sirmansville, Negro farm community near here.

Some 40 families, of about 250 persons, make up the community.

They own their farms, some of them including land entailed by their freedmen fathers and grandfathers.

It was Dempsey Wooten who urged on every occasion "that the Negro who owns land will never starve; it's the city folks who go hungry."

But it was Lucinda Tillman whose son, Henry, has been trustee of the school at Sirmansville for 50 years, who really launched the community spirit.

These are the results, as reported by Mrs. Edna Cain Daniel, of The Quitman Free Press, and Benjamin Anderson, Negro schoolmaster:

An annual net income of approximately $1,000 per family.

A "working live-at-home farm program."

The first "night school" held in Brooks County for adult farmers.

The first vocational agriculture school in the county.

The first canning plant in the county.

An accredited high school that sends an average of four students to college annually, and has seen pupils develop into doctors, dentists, lawyers, preachers and school teachers—one is a college president.

The school, which is a part of the state system, was started as a private school, with the Negroes paying the teacher themselves.

Teaching continues through the year. Farm classes are built around seasonal problems.

Mrs. Daniel said "these Negroes started all these projects on their own initiative and for years carried on without help. Government money came later, such as state aid for their school and agricultural classes."

Anderson is on duty 24 hours a day. He said it was a rare day that he was not out by 4:30 a.m., either on call to help set a broken leg for a calf, treat a sick mule, help on a farm job or "just give advice."

The Negroes plant little cotton. They prefer peanuts, corn, hay, hogs, cattle and chickens.

Theory is put into practice in community cooperation, such as the manufacture of paint for community buildings from motor oil, at a fraction of the cost of commercial preparations, and the use of whitewash on farm buildings.

"And another thing we are proud of about this community is that this is one place where our law courts get very little business," Mrs. Daniel said.

COMMUNITY SPIRIT RULES IN NEGRO TOWN

Dreams Of Slaves Come True In Prosperous Sirmansville

[illegible] 11-13-38

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Macon Ga. Telegraph

~~[illegible]~~

November 13, 1938

Negro Community Thrives On Co-operative Program

Sirmansville, Founded by Freemen, Finds Farming Good With Diversification

By HAROLD TYLER

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State School Now

An accredited high school that sends an average of four students to college annually, and has seen pupils develop into doctors, dentists, lawyers and school teachers—one is a college president.

The first canning plant was a homemade affair, with outdoor furnace and boiler. Now the community boasts a modern steam plant, housed in a building near the school, where "we'll can anything fit to eat," Anderson said.

The school is a part of the state system, receiving state and county funds, but it was started as a private school, with the Negroes paying the teacher themselves.

Teaching continues through the year. Farm classes are built around seasonal problems and conducted usually for periods of 10 weeks or until the project set up for study is complete.

Little Cotton Grown

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The Negroes plant little cotton. They prefer peanuts, corn, hay, hogs, cattle and chickens. Even with a dry 1938 season, Anderson said "most of them did pretty good." But even with a bad season, he recalled that the canning plant had processed 15,000 quarts of fruits and vegetables this year.

"Also most of our families have last year's meat still on cold storage in Quitman," Anderson added. The farmers canned chickens, fish, chittlin's, made pickled pigs feet and put up eggs in water glass in addition to the regular produce.

The adult classes are well attended. An indexed library of government farm bulletins serves as a guide. Practical, everyday problems that are encountered on the farm are studied. Youngsters study the regular school subjects through high school, but take on additional work in home economics and agriculture.

Law is Law

Theory is put into practice in community co-operation, such as the manufacture of paint for community buildings from motor oil, at a fraction of the cost of commercial preparations, and the use of whitewash on farm buildings. Even the native shrubbery is being used for landscaping the school grounds.

Oscar Thomas and Mack Thomas with 300 and 200 acres apiece are brothers in the community whose father and grandfather farmed the same land; Kellogg Sirmans contendedly harvests crops from 200 acres; G. C. Wooten holds on to the land Dempsey left him.

"And another thing we are proud of about this community is that this is one place where our law courts get very little business," Mrs. Daniel said.

Jackson, Miss., Daily Clarion Ledger
November 13, 1938

DREAMS OF NEGRO SLAVES COME TRUE

Community In Georgia Is Prosperous As All-Negro Town

QUITMAN, Ga., Nov. 12.—(AP)—Dreams of negro slaves who more than 70 years ago settled down as freed men in rural Brooks county have come true in prosperous Sirmansville, negro farm community near here.

Some 40 families, of about 250 persons, make up the community.

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The negroes plant little cotton. They prefer peanuts, corn, hay, hogs, cattle and chickens.

Much of the produce raised by the farmers is canned. The canning plant has processed 15,000 quarts of fruits and vegetables this year. Chickens, fish, chittlins, pigs feet and eggs in water glass are preserved in addition to vegetables, Anderson explained.

The adult classes are well attended. Practical everyday problems that are encountered on the farm are studied.

Theory is put into practice in community cooperation. such as the manufacture of paint for community buildings from motor oil, at a fraction of the cost of commercial preparations, and the use of whitewash on farm buildings.

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SOUTHERN
PRESS CLIPPING BUREAU
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ORDER NUMBER ____________

This Clipping from

Augusta Ga Herald
November 15, 1938

Nov. 15, 1938

AUGUSTA, GA.

Dreams of Negro Slaves Have Come True at Sirmansville, Ga.

Prosperous Colored Farm Community Near Quitman, Founded More Than Seventy Years Ago, Is Producing Remarkable Records

BY HAROLD TYLER

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ONE PLACE WHERE COURTS GET LITTLE BUSINESS

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ARMISTICE DAY

DIV
TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE

Savannah, Ga. News
October 2, 1946

Negroes at Beach Pondering Where to Locate Homes

There is no joy in the little negro fishing camp on the Inlet at the South End of Tybee.

The negro colony, which has occupied the quarters for many years, is under orders to move by the end of the year. But there is no place in sight to move. At least no place around the river from which they drew their living for generations.

An air of sadness hangs over the squat little camp from which so many pleasant fishing trips have been launched and so many calls for servant help or a man to cut the grass have come from resort residents. You can see it in the face of Thomas and Gussie Paschal, Bowen, Rebecca and all the rest, even down to the dozen little children who cut their teeth on crab claws and romp and play in the unrented boats.

Passage of each day means the time for packing is a day closer for the twenty-five or thirty residents, and that is not a happy thought.

The menfolk still go out and shrimp and fish as of yore but their old spirit has been absent since the day official notice was served on them to move.

South end of Tybee

Towns + Settlements

1930

Towns and Settlements-1933

Illinois.

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OLDEST NEGRO TOWN.

Age 3-4-33 N.Y.

Brooklyn, Ill., sometimes called Lovejoy, is the oldest Negro town in the United States. For sixty years it has been under Negro rule. It is situated two and one half miles from East St. Louis, mistaken by some to be in Missouri and a part of St. Louis. At the Mayoralty election recently held in Brooklyn, Prof. Burt F. Washington, for years the acknowledged political boss, was defeated for reelection by O. G. Walls, tonsorial artist. The vote was: Walls, 570; Washington, 340, and Dr. Earle Williams, 312.

Incidentally, up to the heated Mayoralty campaign, Walls was Washington's favorite barber, while Dr. Williams was considered by the retiring chief magistrate of the town as a trusted friend. Now bitter in defeat, Prof. Washington charges that he has been doublecrossed by those with whom he had shared his secrets and aspirations.

A peculiar twist to the election of Walls is the influence exerted by white business men who are said to be directly responsible for Brooklyn's political upheaval. There has been no official Democratic organization in the town, although at the November election Roosevelt and Garner polled 333 colored and five white votes. In the recent election for Mayor, Washington was the choice of the People's Party, controlled by Republicans. Walls bolted and became the candidate of the Progressive Party, dominated by Harry Kegler, white Democrat, and financed by Max Blumenfeld, white storekeeper.

The colored residents outnumber the whites in Brooklyn, Ill., 400 to 1, the white population being negligible. But while numerically small and insignificant, the largest business enterprises are owned and operated by white people. The barbershops, poolrooms and eating places are under colored management, but as in Harlem, the most largely-patronized grocery stores and meat markets are run by whites. Any rotary or Kiwanis club in the Negro town of Brooklyn, Ill., would be predominantly white in its membership.

Along with his duties as Mayor and principal of the school, a well constructed brick building, Prof. Washington also was Supervisor of the Township which automatically made him supervisor of the poor. It fell his lot to supervise all emergency relief work and he accuses Blumenfeld of plotting to bring about his political downfall because of his refusal to give the Jewish grocer all the orders for provisions distributed to the needy. Washington says he pursued a policy of dividing the business with three other firms, which incurred Blumenfeld's enmity and who vowed vengeance.

Kegler and Blumenfield, according to Washington, formed the "brain trust" and engineered the plan to defeat him by backing Walls and putting Dr. Williams in the field to split the vote.

The political phase of the present situation in Brooklyn may be interesting and furnishes a theme for discussion. But there is another phase more important and in many respects more fundamental—the economic. Not so very long after Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, members of the race set up a community of their own. It has been under their complete political and social domination throughout the years. Yet today its most thriving and productive business institutions are run by white people, who have grown sufficiently wealthy and powerful through colored patronage to name the Mayor of Brooklyn.

For such an incongruous situation the Keglers and Blumenfelds should not be blamed. They are merely taking advantage of a racial weakness which the Negro displays be it in New York, Illinois, Massachusetts or California, or throughout America. There are times when we unfairly blame the white man for something for which we are directly responsible.

MAYOR OF NEGRO TOWN QUITS WHEN OFFICER KILLS WORKER

Call 9-22-33

Kansas City, Mo.

ST. LOUIS.—The town of Brooklyn, Ill., is mayorless following the resignation of O.G. Walls last week following the shooting of Leo Gates, a Wall's political henchman, by Trobias Crittendon, a policeman.

The slaying is thought to have been the result of a split in the ranks of the Progressive party, which is Democratic.

Two factions were jockeying for power because of the coming election for sheriff in the spring.

Walls defeated the former mayor of the Negro town, Bert Washington, last year. Since that a split has grown up in the ranks of the party which has become wide during the past few weeks.

Walls appointed Crittendon to the police force, but after the split, Crittendon joined forces with the opposition, headed by Henry Sickman and Chief-of-Police Hemingway.

Gates belonged to the faction loyal to Walls.

Crittendon said that Gates shot at him first, but other people say that Crittendon had been looking for trouble and killed Gates on a slight pretext.

Onlookers say the whole town seemed to be armed and anticipating trouble of one sort or another.

This town in former years has seen bitterly contested political campaigns and shootings as a result have not been infrequent.

Mayor Walls made no statement after his resignation except that he intended to leave Brooklyn.

CHICAGOANS PROPOSE PLAN TO ESTABLISH 49TH STATE OF UNION FOR COLORED PEOPLE

Recorder 11-11-33
Indianapolis Ind

CHICAGO, Nov. 8.—(ANP)—Leading Chicago Negroes formulated a plan this week which proposed the establishment of a forty-ninth state in which those Negroes who desired might find new homes and opportunities for development.

They believe that some such step must be taken because the "economic status of the Negro in the United States is becoming more insecure, desperate and alarming They express their confidence in the sincerity of President Roosevelt in promulgating and setting into action the various phases of the Recovery Program, but express the conviction that "under the present set-up of the nation, there are many things which even the president cannot do.

"Mr. Roosevelt himself," aver these leaders, "says that he will not be able to perform any miracles and all impartial observers in this country know that it will be more than a mirable to secure the just and fair administration of the codes in their application to Negroes."

Announcement of the group purpose was made by Atty. Oscar Brown. Bindley C. Cyrus, a West Indian, married to the daughter of the late Booker T. Washington, is one of the supporters of the program. Referring to Carl Foreman's suggestion for the development of Negro communities, they say:

"It has been suggested that the Negro can better his condition by building and operating his own villages, towns or cities. We cannot be expected to undertake such a thing as that in an unsympathetic or hostile surrounding neighborhood. More than that, the Negro, to be self-sustaining, must have an area larger than what would be required for a village or town or city. The Negro needs a state."

"At least one-half of the more than twelve million Negroes in the United States are willing to follow the rigors and hardships of the covreed wagon," according to Mr. Brown; "to begin at the bottom with a chance to work out our own destiny in a state of the United States.

"Among us, there are thousands of college, professional, trained and untrained women and men who are able to shoulder all the responsibilities required in the orderly functioning of a state. It is not too much to ask the United States to help us secure an area adequate, and eufficient for us to establish for ourselves the 49th state of the United States. If our country will give us the degree of assistance we deserve in the undertaking, we will build a commonwealth of several millions of respected, industrious, thrifty citizens, self-governing self-reliant and self-sustaining, loyal to our government and a credit to all that is noblest and best in it."

Political 'Boss' Of Brooklyn Village For 50 Years Quits

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Defender

Chicago, Ill.

EAST ST. LOUIS, Ill. — Former Mayor William Terry, long-time "boss" of all-Negro Brooklyn, Ill., a small village just a few miles north of East St. Louis, has decided to give up the political wars at the age of 82.

Terry, who for the past 40 years has ruled Brooklyn with an iron hand, failed to file as a candidate for re-election as supervisor of Stites Township, the last public position he held in a long career.

Terry said he simply wanted to get away from the responsibility of any public office. He added he has no special plans for retirement, but wants to be free from political activity.

His reign in the hurly-burly of Stites Township politics has been stormy, but no more so than that of his predecessor, Burt Washington.

POLITICAL BOSSES P(2)

As political bosses of the village, he and Washington at the peak of their careers held tight control of the voters in the community. Brooklyn has an estimated population of 5,000. No one knows the exact count because drifters come and go.

3(9-15)63

A Democrat, Terry's power showed up principally on important election days when the total vote would sometimes exceed the number of adults registered in the town.

As supreme powers in the village, Washington and later Terry would predict in advance that a favored candidate would receive 99 per cent of the vote. This was in the days of the paper ballots and led to many official investigations. Usually the ballot box bore out the prediction.

Terry's rise to power was meteoric and devastating. In 1933 he arrived in Brooklyn under questionable circumstances. The rumor was he had been run out of Newport, Ill., a smaller all-Negro community just a few miles north of Brooklyn.

TOOK OVER

However, he immediately took over as superintendent of Lovejoy High and grade schools. He then ran for mayor in 1937 (his opponent has long since been forgotten) and was elected. His regime was protected by hand-picked officials — policemen, judges, etc. Next he succeeded in becoming supervisor of Stites Township, the agency which hands out relief checks and other welfare offerings.

Many residents now living in Brooklyn fled to that village during the height of the 1917 East St. Louis race riot. However the town was founded in 1837, the same as Chicago. It was incorporated in 1874.

One of its churches, Quinn Chapel AME, was also founded in 1837. It is one of the oldest Quinn Chapels in America. Brooklyn long served as a way-stop for the underground railroad.

Terry, who lives at 137 N. Sixth st., was born March 13, 1880. He said he is somewhat hazy about the dates he held various positions.

BACKGROUND

Terry spent three years at Lovejoy High School as a youth, six weeks at Illinois State Normal University in 1906 and another six weeks in 1921. He earned two and two-thirds college credits for an extension course in 1948.

He taught in public schools at Newport from 1925 until 1933 and received a limited school superintendent's certificate Jan. 30, 1930.

His power began to wane in 1961 when a new breed of youngsters combined their forces and succeeded in getting a former Terry associate, George Thomas, elected mayor.

Terry lost control of the school district to the late Dr. Earle Williams in 1956 following a scandal which led to the arrest of the female principal at that time. She subsequently spent a period of time in prison.

During his long tenure on the St. Clair County Board of Supervisors, Terry was given important committee assignments and was a power in board deliberations. An affable man, he was highly regarded by downstate politicians.

At least two of Brooklyn's native sons have gone on to great things in Chicago. They are Attorneys Russell DeBow and Robert Horton. DeBow is now on Mayor Richard J. Daley's investigation staff. Horton has a successful law practice.

Towns and Settlements 1934
See: Negro, Colonization of.

Illinois.

Birmingham, Ala., News
March 8, 1934

THE FORTY-NINTH STATE

We are in receipt of a letter and bulletin from the national council of a movement, headquarters in Chicago, to establish the forty-ninth state in the Union wherein would be segregated the Negro population of the country for the purpose of relieving the plight of the Negro in America, which is described as one of "insecurity and distress." We are inclined to think the plan is too ambitious and would encounter insuperable difficulties.

The bulletin says it is not necessary at this time to point out the area which would go to make up the new commonwealth, but it should be "adequate in size, hospitable in climate and fertile as to soil, capable of producing the basic necessities of life." The practical problem would require that the new state be carved out of some existing state or states, for there are no territorial areas left in the country and before the "carving" could be done the consent of the possessors would have to be obtained, which would not be as simple as the promoters might imagine. In fact, the idea is fantastic and impossible of realization. The Negro may be mistreated in his present environment and subjected to much injustice, but to create a new state for him, to which he could repair and erect his own government and build up his own social and economic life, could never be given serious consideration. And there is no proof the Negro would betake himself to this new Eden and live there, should it be proffered him.—Selma Times-Journal.

Selma, Ala. Times
March 7, 1934

THE 49TH STATE

We are in receipt of a letter and bulletin from the National Council of a movement, headquarters in Chicago, to establish the 49th state in the Union wherein would be segregated the negro population of the country for the purpose of relieving the plight of the negro in America, which is described as one of "insecurity and distress." We are inclined to think the plan is too ambitious and would encounter insuperable difficulties.

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EAST ST. LOUIS, ILL.
JOURNAL

SEP 23 1934

G. O. P. Negro Women To Meet Wednesday

The regular monthly meeting of the Colored Women's Republican central committee will be held at 1:30 p. m. Wednesday, Sept. 25, at 1943 Market avenue.

All precinct committeemen who are members are expected to attend. Following the meeting there will be refreshments. Mrs. Sarah Sharp is president of the organization.

50 1957

HOPKINS PARK , ILLINOIS
(60 miles South of Chicago, Illinois)

Red Light Strip Divides Town

Defender Sat. 4-6-57
Chicago, Ill. P. 3

By LLOYD L. GENERAL

A red light district was the main campaign issue this weekend as the citizens of Pembroke Township in Kankakee county prepared to vote Tuesday, climaxing a torrid campaign, marked by bitterness, damaging accusations and ominous threats.

The fight is centered in Hopkins Park, a small, primitive, all-Negro community, located about 60 miles due South of Chicago in the midst of a land as untamed as the passions which threaten to rip the community apart.

To call Hopkins Park a town is to stretch the point. More accurately, it is an unsightly collection of cardboard dwellings, backwoods roads and a population of defeated, weary people.

NEWCOMER FIGHTS

This week, led by a newcomer to Hopkins Park, the voters were prepared to do battle with an insidious evil which residents call "segregated prostitution."

Targets of the uprising are six plush clubs sprouting amidst the town's grime like spring flowers in a refuse heap.

These places, say the citizens, are houses of prostitution, with beautiful imported Negro girls, catering to white men. Negroes are firmly barred by the operators.

Leader of the fight is Matthew Brandon, retired Army officer, who settled in Hopkins Park last September and immediately set out to do something about what he says is rampant "vice and corruption."

LISTS CANDIDATES

The list of principal characters include:

Ellen Nina Greenley, who works in one of the places of questionable fame and who is a leading candidate for justice of the peace on the Progressive ticket.

Ike Runnels, barber, decent citizens' candidate who is opposing Miss Runnels with the aid of Brandon and other aroused citizens.

Lorenzo Smith, school principal, and Progressive candidate for town clerk.

Amos Brown, incumbent, seeking re-election as justice of the peace.

Hollie McKee, Progressive candidate for assessor.

Oscar Neal, Progressive candidate for constable.

Charlie Robinson, Progressive candidate for constable.

Henry Thompson, decent citizens' candidate for constable.

Willie Williams, present deputy sheriff and candidate for constable. The bitterest battle is between Runnels and Miss Greenley, who is accused of being a front for unnamed white men who allegedly control the vice.

There is fear in Hopkins Park. This reporter, accompanied by Defender Photographer Cleo Lyles, came face-to-face with it less than an hour after we arrived in the community.

Within a few minutes of our first interview, we found ourselves tailed by deputies of varying importance, and we even had the honor of a scrutiny by the county sheriff.

The latter incident occurred in Redell's Country club, where Miss Greenley works.

The place contained a "paying" slot machine, to which we lost a few quarters. Before we could get set to recoup the loss, a porter rushed in announcing that he had just received telephoned orders to remove the device.

SHERIFF ARRIVES

A few minutes later an officer identified as the Kankakee county sheriff screeched to a stop outside and rushed into the club. He looked us over carefully.

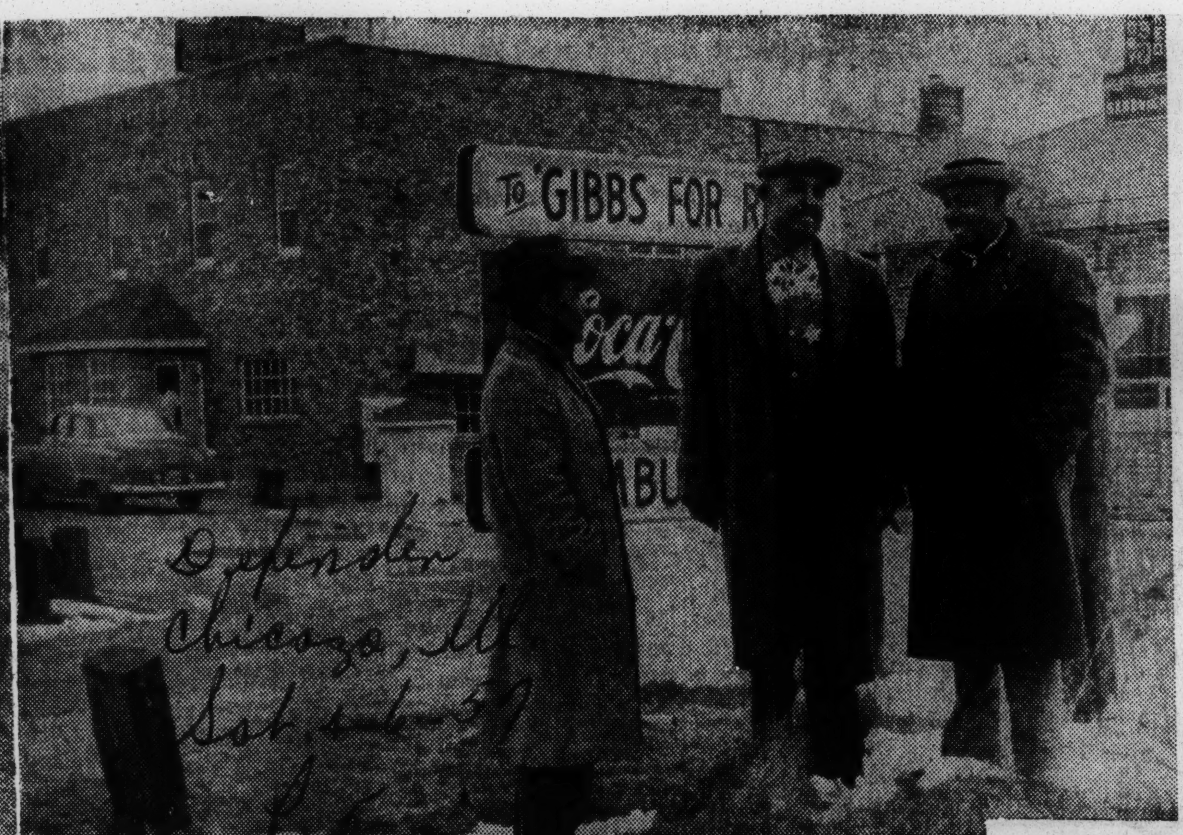
The "decent citizens" contend that each of the "clubs" has a bevy of Negro prostitutes living on the premises, catering only to white men. We were denied access to the upper quarters of the clubs.

Maybe there is "segregated prostitution" in Hopkins Park and maybe not; but one thing is certain: somebody, certainly not the residents, are paying the bill **for six grandly operated clubs.**

The people of Hopkins Park cannot affoord such expensive entertainment.

Brandon and Runnels and the other people of the community hope next Tuesday will see the beginning of the end of the "vice strip." They fear most the election of Miss Greenley.

Hall **Thompson**



Defender
Chicago, Ill.
Sat. 4-6-57
P. 6

Photos by Lyles.

Defender
Chicago, Ill.
Sat. 4-6-57
P. 5

The "clean government" candidate opposing her is Ike Runnels extreme (right), local businessman. In the second picture is Do Drop Inn, one of six plus roadhouses in the community. In the third photo, Lloyd L. General, reporter, interviews Justice of the Peace Amos Brown, in front of Redell's club where Miss Greenley works. Second from right, Matthew Brandon, reform leader, talks with candidates Oscar Neal and Willie Williams in front of Gibbs, another club.

Red Light District Splits Illinois Town

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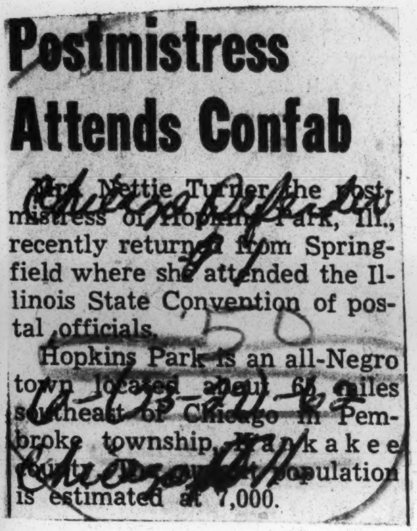
ILLICIT SEX and vice are explosive election issues in campaign this week in the all-Negro community of Hopkins Park. Chief target of a reform group is Ellen Nina Greenley (left) candidate for justice of the peace.

50 1962

HOPKINS PARK, ILLINOIS

PEMBROKE TOWNSHIP, KANKAKEE COUNTY

267



Postmistress Attends Confab

Chicago Defender

Mrs. Nettie Turner, the postmistress of Hopkins Park, Ill., recently returned from Springfield where she attended the Illinois State Convention of postal officials.

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Hopkins Park is an all-Negro town located about 65 miles southeast of Chicago in Pembroke township, Kankakee county. [illegible] population is estimated at 7,000.

6-23-62

Chicago, Ill.

50 1963 LEESVILLE, (ILLINOIS)

Leesville In Drive To Lure Industry, Firms To Village

Chicago Defender P. 7 1(19-25)63 Chicago, Ill.

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There is an air of excitement and anticipation in Leesville. 50

The predominantly Negro village in southern Illinois, whose papers of incorporation were kept secret eight years is springing to life with plans for the future designed to lure new business and attract new residents.

The prime movers behind this rejuvenation are Village President Carlos V. Lindsay, and two consultants, Phillip Belanger and Edward E. Petrik, associated with Spence Castle Enterprises, Inc., of Chicago.

Plans have been drawn for a new, modern municipal building which will house village offices, police and fire departments. The design is an example of utility and beauty.

70-BED HOSPITAL

Belanger and Petrik, who have been commissioned by Lindsay and the village trustees to perform preliminary tasks of planning, have also produced ideas for a 70-bed hospital, a nursing home and a retirement center.

Joseph Graham has been appointed to do public relations work for the village.

The master plan for Leesville envisions pre-planning of all facilities, zoning regulations which would regulate the type of structures and their locations.

As a part of the plan, village officials have begun a campaign in Chicago and other Midwestern cities "selling" their ideas and the future of the village to people in industry and professional fields.

One of the chief aims is to interest physicians in participating in the hospital-nursing home complex. They report that several Chicago doctors have already expressed interest in the idea.

Officials are hopeful that an early start will be made on the hospital, and that the other improvements will follow shortly. It is likely that the nursing home will be the next order of business.

In their efforts to promote greater interest in Leesville, Graham said Mayor Lindsay is organizing a citizens advisory committee, to be composed of Chicagoans and citizens of the village.

Architectural planning is being handled by Hetherington, an architectural consulting firm of LaGrange, Ill.

It is expected that the modernization program will give a needed boost to the area's economy. Belanger and Petrik stated that construction material and equipment will be supplied by area firms and that local labor will be used.

Funds for the project will come from private and governmental sources, and contacts have already been made with the Federal Housing Authority and the Housing and Home Finance Agency.

"We have a real team involved in this," said Lindsay. "Civil engineers, management engineers, management consultants and other advisory people."

As for the types of business Leesville hopes to attract, they are now concentrating on light industry and service firms.

"It is our intention to achieve full economic growth," Graham said. "Our plans call for all types of retail and service establishments and for complete recreational facilities.

"We have already arranged for licenses for each type of business and set up a schedule of fees that will be attractive to a potential investor. We want to assure any businessman who comes into Leesville that he has an excellent chance to succeed."

STATES DATA

Leesville was granted a charter of incorporation in 1954, but it was only until last January, after persistent efforts by Lindsay, that the village became aware of its true status.

"When our plans are completed, we intend to have enough jobs so people will move here to stay, and we intend to have an attractive town for them to live in," Lindsay said.

A year ago, Leesville was a village of many delayed dreams. It was dotted with half-finished houses started by people who wanted to get away from the big cities, but found themselves without enough capital to finish their dream homes.

The plans even include a "recreation palace" which will contain private dining rooms, bar and recreational facilities.

"We are anxious to get started," declared Belanger, "and as soon as we get enough doctors we're going to begin on the hospital. We feel that once that is done, the rest will be easy."

The people of Leesville agree with him wholeheartedly.

NORTH SHORE COLONY PLAN STARTS ROW

Chicago Defender

Colonization Rumor Leads Middle Class Whites to Protest; Rich Urge It

4/22/22

North Shore residents are greatly stirred over the news that the immediate establishment of a colony of several hundred homes along the "Gold Coast" in the vicinity of Evanston is being contemplated for members of the Race by the real estate firm of Rankin, Wilson & Pegues.

Two vital factors concerned themselves in the minds of these enterprising young men in the general routine of their business, and it was their consideration of these that caused them to think of the colonization plan. They were, first, thousands of inquiries from all parts of the South had been addressed to them relative to the possibilities of securing homes for such members of the Race as desired to leave the South and come North.

Second, the foreign help employed by residents of the North Shore was proving very unsatisfactory.

Whites In Project

With these two facts in front of them, these young men went to work upon their project. After ascertaining the scope of what they intended to do, they found that they were unable to marshal the necessary amount of finance to swing the deal. Several rich Evanstonians were taken into their confidence and shown the advantages of the proposition. These immediately offered them unlimited financial support.

Options were secured upon several thousand acres lying just west of Evanston, and the intentions of the owners of the options were made public. Then came the excitement. Gossip flew fast. Old-timers didn't know what to think or say. Just think of it. The North Shore to be invaded by ordinary people, and they are not white.

But the "blue bloods" are not in the least bitter, for they see in the colonization plan a relief from domestic troubles. As one housewife said, "Colored girls are so dependable and so extremely good-natured." That tells the story. In service the Race girl has a field all her own. There is no competition to speak of. And in this community plan there is opened up for the girl a golden opportunity.

It is a well known fact that domestics are paid a higher wage along the "Gold Coast" than anywhere else in America. First maids are paid from $20 to $25 per week, while second maids receive $15 and $18 per week. Laundresses receive $4.50 and car fare. And as residents of the new community they will be near their places of employment, for they will be almost next door neighbors.

Well Situated

The community will be right in the midst of the homes of the "400." One subdivision in Evanston, with sewers, water and gas already laid and paid for, has been sold, and more acres have been thrown on the market. It is within two blocks of the public school attended by the sons and daughters of the most prominent people on Chicago's social register, and only three blocks from the site of the new $1,000,000 high school at Church street and Dodge avenue.

Political equality is assured in this colony. In fact, if a certain annexation proposition sponsored by the residents of Niles Center goes through the Race will hold the political power in the township. Niles Center only has a population of a little more than 300, while provision is being made for not less than 700 homes in the new colony.

Race men need not experience any anxiety as to their means of a livelihood, for Evanston plans to erect a smudge plant near by, which it is contemplated will employ nearly 1,000 men. Transportation facilities are of the best, and the distance between the community and Chicago can be covered in less than an hour.

It was voted Tuesday to annex 3,500 acres to the village's 600 acres of area. Despite the protest of the middle class whites, the voters took it in by a vote of 302 to 13.

Sub division near Evanston, Ill.
North Shore Colony –

Towns and Settlements—1925.

Illinois.

N Y C NORTH SIDE NEWS
FEBRUARY 22, 1925

A NEGRO VILLAGE

Little has been seen in print of late about the Negroes who left the South for the North and West during the World War. In the earlier stages of the migration serious riots took place in some of the Mid-Western cities, but these were less bloody and deadly than the outbreaks against imported Negro strikebreakers ten and twenty years previously, when at some points many Negroes were killed, their houses were burned and the survivors were driven out of town. The war and post-war migrations seem to have been accepted more calmly and with less opposition, this being due possibly to a reluctant recognition among the working classes that the importations were too large to be dealt with and the the competition of the black man, however unwelcome, was an accomplished fact.

Nevertheless there are indications that the Negroes settled in the Middle West have been reminded of the wisdom of the old adage, birds of a feather flock together, and have found it good policy to live, as far as possible, apart from the whites. We read, for example, of the village of Robbins, 14 miles from Chicago, with a population of 2,000, "99 per cent colored." Robbins has sent forth a very good account of itself, claiming "no gambling, no vice, no crime, no arrests, no jail" within its borders and asserting that its early troubles were entirely due to disorders in its little "white belt"—which obviously is, or was, out of place and should become extinct. Robbins claims a church on every corner of its main street, and membership in some fraternal order for "every man, woman and child," announcing various modern improvements, including an energetic women's club, and two schools. Its peace and extraordinary virtue are doubtless exaggerated, but the segregation plan has its merits and might be adopted with profit elsewhere.

KINGSTON, N. Y. FREEMAN
JANUARY 16, 1925

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Plan New Negro Settlement In Will County

Mokena, Ill., Jan. 14 (Preston News Service)—"New Liberia" the Negro settlement proposed to be established in Will county, is reported to be assuming definite form. One thousand acres of land have been secured by option and a payment of $20,000 on account before [illegible] of the period is said to be in sight. Much more land will be available for the settlement, it is understood.

The New Liberia Development Company has been organized for the purpose of providing rural homes and employment for the Negroes of Chicago who wish to leave the metropolis. Plans call for the laying out of farms for those who wish to engage in agriculture and the establishment of industries for those who prefer factory work.

1-15-25

Promoters believe fully 30,000 Negroes will be attracted to the settlement. They are planning a modern city with schools, churches, paved streets, sewer system and public utilities, to be surrounded by highly developed farms.

Residents of Mokena, Frankfort and New Lenox are reported to be alarmed of the possibility of a large Negro settlement springing up at their doors, fearing it will lessen the value of their property.

Try to Block Opening of New Negro Town Near Chicago

CHICAGO, July 30.—Although A. J. Lane, manager of the development company, which has for its purpose the building of a new Negro city, to be called Liberia, near this city claims that his company bought and paid for the land, white persons who object to the colored people moving in, have had armed deputies placed on the ground to prevent the opening celebration. Mr. Lane says that he will start despite the deputies. White person recently held a meeting and passed resolutions asking for a State Referendum on segregation of colored colonies. And this is Illinois.

Robbins, Ill.-
New Liberia, Illinois

TRY TO BLOCK OPENING OF NEW NEGRO TOWN NEAR CHICAGO

Chicago, Aug. 27 (ANP).—Although A. J. Lane, manager of the development company which has for its purpose the building of a new Negro city, to be called Liberia, near this city, claims that his company has bought and paid for the land, white persons who object to the colored people moving in, have had armed deputies placed on the ground to prevent the opening celebration. Mr. Lane says that he will start despite the deputies. White persons recently held a meeting and passed resolutions asking for a state referendum on segregation of colored colonies. This is in Illinois.

Savannah Tribune

Towns of Cook County Elect Their Officials

Sixty-two towns in Cook county voted last Tuesday and chose local officials. Hot campaigns preceded the election in several of the larger villages and almost every contest had a definite issue, in most cases the annexation of additional territory.

In Robbins, Ill., a village controlled by members of our Race, the following officials were elected: President, Theodore J. Kellar; trustees, William Welker, George Winburn and Henry P. Drew. James Coleman was elected police magistrate.

Chicago Defender

Towns and Settlements - 1924. California

56

COLORED COLONY IN THE HEART OF SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY.

Towns

About two hundred and fifty miles south of San Francisco on the main line of the Santa Fe railroad is the town of Allensworth, nestling in the heart of the great San Joaquin valley. With an exclsive colored population of about two hundred, a post office, two stores, barber shop, railroad station and ware house, this colony bids fair to be one of the show places of colored America. It is said every resident owns his own home and vacant property besides. They have a modern, electrically lighted school house, a church building and a hotel. They are producing choice vegetables and dairy products for the large cities in amazing quantitities from their possessions and should the corporation which is drilling for oil nearby, strike a paying flow soon, these simple farmer folk will be rated among the country's wealthiest Negroes. More and more these industrial settlements in the North and West are coming to the attention of the world and demonstrating the logical solution for many of the so-called "conditions" of which the catch-coin "orators" are fond of prating. THE FREEMAN acknowledges Allensworth, with sincerest good wishes.

The Freeman
1-26-24

LAW PASSED TO RETARD NEW CITY

[LINCOLN NEWS SERVICE]

Columbia, S. C., March 21.—Revocation of the charter of the town of Booker Washington Heights—a community northeast of Columbia boasting of an intendent, alderman and policemen—is proposed by a bill which has passed both houses of the South Carolina general assembly which is now in session. The bill was introduced by the delegation from Richland county, in which county Columbia is located. The bill has been ordered enrolled for ratification and after being ratified needs but the signature of the governor to become effective.

Reinforcing the bill is a petition signed by 98 residents of the town, who state that they are opposed to the incorporation of the town, declared by one of those participating in its incorporation to be "the only town south of the Mason and Dixon line run by Negroes." The petition also sets forth that only 10 or 12 of the inhabitants of the town desire its incorporation and these are described in an affidavit accompanying the petition as "what is commonly called the biggity or so-called educated set, who desire to boss over or control the better element."

In the charter the officers of the town are given as Charles D. Davis, intendent; Harrell W. Harrison, David I. Stroman, Walter L. Lyles and Alexander E. Walker, all of whom, according to the affidavit presented to the Richland delegation, are of our Race. Fourteen votes, all favorable, were cast in the election on the question of the town's incorporation. The territory involved, according to the charter, embraces 250 inhabitants.

Chicago
Defender
3-22-24

Negro Author Joins Allensworth Colony

Situated in the heart of the San Joaquin Valley in California, is a little community composed entirely of people of our race group. It is directly on the Santa Fe line with convenient means of communication with the outside world. Here Negro men and women are struggling and succeeding in the various industries undertaken.

Into this wide-awake colony has come a genius. Of pleasing personality and force of character, he is drawing to himself friends. Already he bids fair to become famous for his book for children, "Brown Fairies." It is an original work, the like of which has never before been offered the reading public. It appeals to young and old alike.

This young author is known as "Al Amin" to the literary world, his real name being F. H. Foster. The effort he is putting forth must ultimately bring success. Foster will not take as his portion failure.

The Negro
World
5-24-24

EXCLUSIVE COLONY IS ESTABLISHED BY CALIFORNIANS

Eureka Villa Is First Class Mountain Resort And City. Forty Miles From Los Angeles.

Los Angeles, Calif., Dec. 23—(A. N. P.)—A Negro colony nestling in the hills of California and just an hour's drive from the heart of the city, with parks, boulevards, country club, golf course, tennis courts and all the accoutrements which will go to make a first class mountain resort and city is the plan which a group of this city's foremost citizens are rapidly driving toward realization. Eureka Villa is the name of this projected commonwealth which is duly incorporated and located forty miles north of Los Angeles on the road to Frisco. Already cottages are springing up, the county is surveying and building city streets, early settlers are picking out their locations with an eye to convenience and view, and what its promoters originally intended as a cabin resort where tried business men and their families pleasure bent might week-end, and recreate is assumin proportions which promise to give it country-wide interest and demonstrate the ability of the group to found and settle an exclusive and attractive community of their own making.

Norfolk
Journal
& Guide
12-27-24

Nearly a year ago, Sidney P. Dones, one of the best known realtors of Southern Californian together with Assemblyman F. M. Roberts, Attorney Leroy B. Barrett, Hon. J. B. Bass, editor of the California Eagle, and others of their assocates among whom are Dr. Emily Childress, Rev. E. R. Driver, J. C. Banks, Sr., William M. Shelton, Ernest Benette, Dr. S. D. Cottress, Dr. William B. Humphrey, Charles E. Pearl, Mrs. Eliza Turner. Mrs. Ernestine Davidson, and C. M. Jones, made plans to establish a mountain cabin retreat of the type so popular among white Californians. They selected a large tract of land admirably situated in what one of the members describes as "the most beautiful spot in Southern California, had it surveyed, tested for water and offered lots to the citizenry at large. No thought of building other than a rendevous for pleasure entered their minds, but the lots were sold so rapidly and so many of the purchasers declared their intentions of building permanent homes, that the spirit of founding a real city spread among the owners and the pretentious development going on at present in Eureka Villa is the result. Purchasers have not been confined to residents of Los Angeles but visitors from all over the state, from Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and as far east as St. Louis, Chicago, Cleveland, have secured holdings, some having the intention for profitable investment.

In the last four years Los Angeles has grown four miles in the direction of Eureka Villa and its promoters are declaring that if the growth is maintained values in the Villa have an opportunity to assume dizzy proportions. Perfect macadamized roads for which this western commonwealth is famous lead directly to the Villa and busses from both Los Angeles and Frisco pass the entrance frequently furnishing comfortable transportation to those who do not own cars, although it is true that no mean percentage of the million and a quarter licensed in the state are owned and driven by colored folk.

Norfolk Journal
and Guide
12-27-24

Certainly Los Angeles is much interested in the venture and President Sidney P. Dones who had pioneered the idea sees nothing but success ahead. Eureka Villa he constantly reminds "is not being developed exclusively for Californions. We invite our folk from all over the country to come and join hands with us here in this wonderful location with its delightful climate in the development of a townsite in which we all shall take a pride."

Allensworth, Calif -
Booker Washington Heights S.C.
(Community N. E. of Columbia S.C.
Eureka Villa - Calif

Towns and Settlements - 1927

Illinois.

77

lowers Is New Mayor of Robbins

Robbins, Ill., April 29.—After an administration of five years as mayor of Robbins, Ill., a village composed wholly of members of the Race, Thomas J. Keller, candidate for another term, was defeated in the election Tuesday by Richard Flowers, former mayor, who returns to the office to carry out his platform for Robbins which he established as the first mayor of the village.

Mr. Keller was defeated by 29 votes. He declared the election was fair, that his opponent was the people's choice, and that he was satisfied with the outcome of the election. He admitted also that because of political and religious troubles which have caused bitterness and discord among the citizens of Robbins that he was not unwilling to give up the administration.

These conditions contributed to his defeat, the former mayor said. One was that he stood for improvement of the village, which, he declared, a certain element of the village did not want. The second condition was that he did not rally to the aid of the members of the Shiloh Baptist church who were fined because of their participation in a church row. The third reason for his defeat was because he had W. H. Lomax, former village treasurer, held to the grand jury for embezzling the village funds.

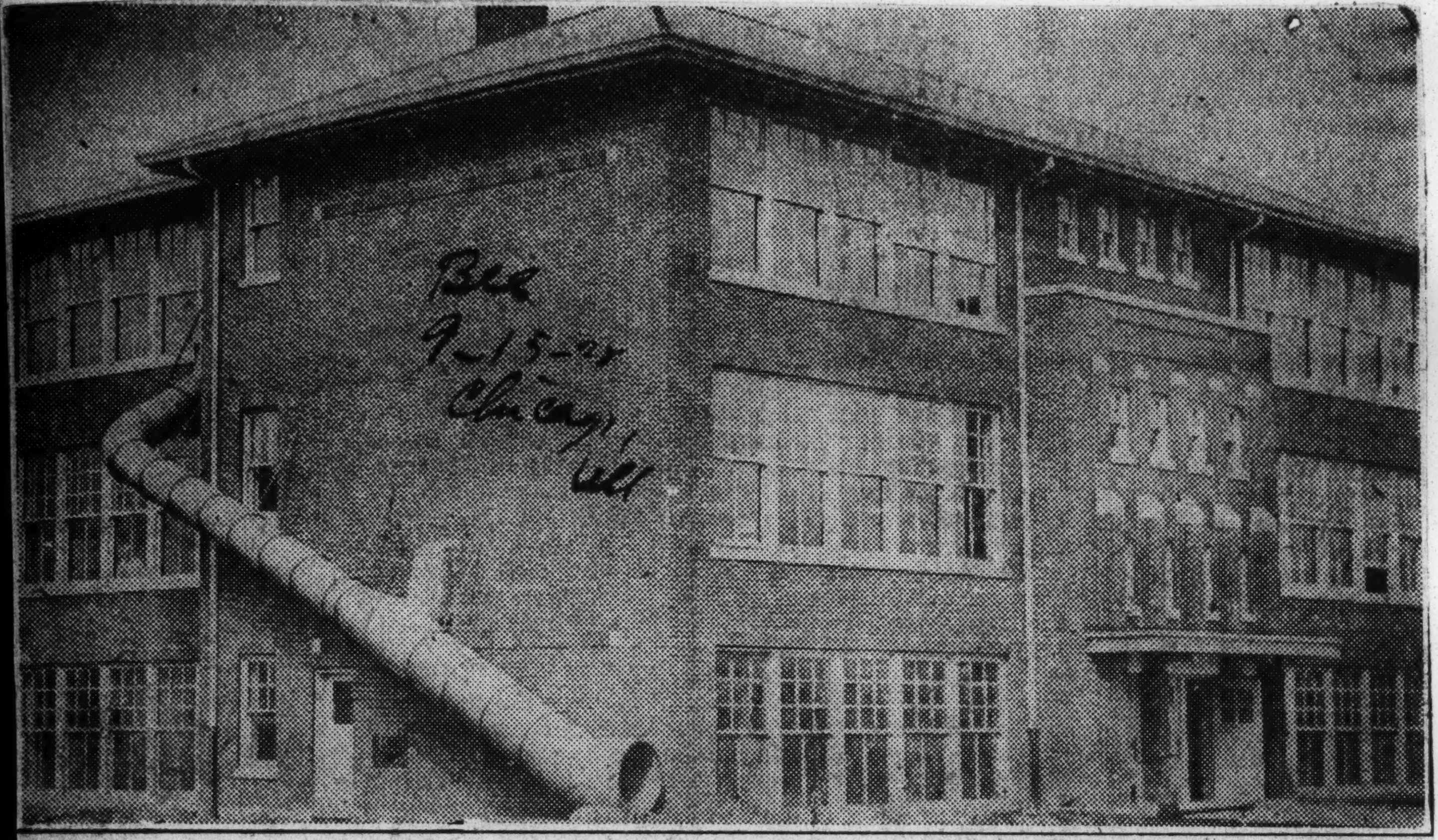
Lomax, the former mayor charges, was treasurer of Robbins from 1921 to 1925 and that he embezzled $573.75 under the administration of Mayor-elect Flowers during his former term of office. A certain element of the village does not want the ex-treasurer prosecuted, Mr. Kellar asserted, and this element feels, he said, that if the administration changes the prosecution will stop. But Lomax will be prosecuted nevertheless, the former mayor said.

Defender

Chicago

Towns and settlements—1929

Illinois.



Bee
9-15-28
Chicago, Ill

A NEW SCHOOL BUILDING, a modern eight-room structure, costing $65,000 has been erected in Robbins, Ill. Robbins is the town near Chicago, which is all colored from the Mayor on down. The new school will accommodate 800

Towns and Settlements-1931

Illinois.

TELLS OF THRIVING COLORED VILLAGE IN STATE OF ILLINOIS

Recorder

TOWN OF ROBBINS, WITH ITS POPULATION OF MORE THAN 3,500 SOULS WITHIN ONE HOUR'S RIDE OF CHICAGO—"PROVES OUR PEOPLE ARE CAPABLE OF SELF GOVERNMENT" WRITER SAYS.

Indianapolis, Ind.

By EDNA CASTLEBURY PREDUE

The result of the election was hailed with much joy, and the burning of red lights reflecting on the snow made a spectacular scene as the jubulant crowd, with tooting horns made the rounds of the infant village.

A peition was filed with the County court asking for a special election of village officials and Jan. 15th 1918 was the day set

The petition was granted a convention called and a full ticket was nominated: Thom. J. Keller, Pres. Wm. Harvey Clerk; Geo. J. Moore Police Magistrate and six Trustees.

No Opposition

There was no opposition and this ticket was uanimously elected.

Ceazer and his cabinet were not arrayed and surrounded with more pomp and splendor than were these newly elected officers at their installation at the Baptist church.

Quarters for housing these city or village officials were immediately secured and the first meeting was attended by every member and all were alert and buisenss started off with a boom.

As time went on, the village grew to such porportions tha a political parties were formed and in time different officers were elected.

During the life of the village the old mud roads have been paved, star light and lamp lights have given way to electric

Lots are now selling for four and five hundred dollars. The old 1-room log school house which housed all of the children colored and white 18 years ago when the writer was an inhabitant of Robbins, and which was taught by a teacher of the white race, has been replaced by an 8-room modern school taught by our own people.

Lake For Fishing

During those days you had to walk two miles to Blue Island for your mail but now Robbins has its own Postoffice and one of our own men Mr. M. Thomas as Post Master

Up-To-Date Club House

Robbins boast of three groceries thirteen churches an up-to-date club house and lake for fishing and boating.

A club house built and owned by the Womens Improvement club and used as a social center and ciculating library.

The club has been quite a factor in the development of the village and lies very near the heart of the writer as it was organized in her home and she acted as its first president until moving

We were pleased to be present at the dedication of the new hall June 29, 31 which is now located in the old school house.

This hall houses the police and fire department and jail.

The fire department has a chemical truck costing $8,000 and a village is planning putting in other necessary apparatuses.

The Police department has a chief Desk Sargeant, Squad car and two motor policemen.

The records show that during the years only about six arrests for obbery were made

There are no lewd places and most arrests are for speeding.

Birth rate is on the increase and death rate low.

This village proves beyond a doubt that our people are capable of self-government.

TELLS OF THRIVING COLORED VILLAGE IN STATE OF ILLINOIS

Recorder. 8-29-31

VILLAGE OF ROBBINS WITH ITS POPULATION OF OVER 3,500 SOULS IS WITHIN HOUR'S RIDE OF CHICAGO—WILL DISABUSE THE MINDS OF THE MOST CRITICAL, SAYS WRITER.

By Edna Castlebury Perdue

Would you believe that in one hour's ride of Chi there is an actuality of what has been said by some people to be an impossibility.

Some of our people believe that we as a group cannot govern ourselves.

Indianapolis

But the village of Robbins, Ill., with its population of 3,500 will disabuse the minds of the most critical.

The old saying "it is an ill wind that blows nobody good," was true in the village of Robbins falling into the hands of our people, for it was not meant to be so in the beginning.

The winds were blowing toward the opening of subdivisions for the Realestate Companies, and fabulous prices were paid for land South of Chicago in 1892 and different subdivisions were opened up with the thought that the World's Fair would extend the City in that direction.

The World's Fair came and went but the extension of Chicago failed to go that way.

The fabulous prices paid by the would-be spectators proved in some instances a total loss.

Henry E. Robbins in 1892 seeing the possibility of helping the colored people, induced a few of them to settle on the abandoned lots which he sold as cheap as $90 on monthly installments.

The settlement did not grow as he had expected and it was not until Mr. Robbins opened another subdivision in 1910 that the growth began.

So rapid was the growth between 1911 and 1917 that more than 300 people were living within its confines.

With such a large population and no local authority to preserve law and order brought about a question of incorporating as a village.

Political Club Organized

For more than five years many clubs were organized with the object in view of doing something to improve the place.

They would last for a while and then disband.

Finally at the suggestion of Samuel Nichols a political club was organized which took unto itsself not only politics but civic law.

Richard Flowers was president until the disbanding of the club in 1922, which was reborn as the Robbins Political and Social Club in 1921.

Thomas J. Keller was appointed to make investigations as to methods of incorporating the village of and in short time, after much deliberating and campaigning against and for the project, a petition was drawn up and presented to the County Court by Atty. Paul T. Klenk asking for an election to determine the proposition.

Election Day Set

Tuesday, December 11, 1917 was set as the day of the election and will long be remembered by those who took part in the campaign.

You would think that there would have been no opposition to incorporating as a village, but there are, and was, and will always be some people opposed to progress.

The day dawned bitter cold and the roads were full of slush yet no one felt the cold, so high was enthusiasm and interest on both sides.

The official count made at the county showed a vote of 3 to 1 for incorporation, and Robbins was declared by Judge Scully December 14, 1917—a village.

Robbins, Ill

Towns and Settlements—1932

Illinois.

OPEN LETTER TO MAYOR OF ROBBINS, ILLINOIS

Gary American

To the Mayor, Mr. Thomas A. Kellar, and his police staff:

We wish to express our thanks for the wnoderful time shown us Monday, September 5, 1932 while in Robbins, Illinois. Our escort to the home of Mr. Wallace, scoutmaster of troop 1 of Robbins was Mr. Wm. Rechard. Mr. Wallace called together his scouts and a game of baseball between troop 5 of Gary and troop 1 of Robbins was played and at the end of the seventh the score was 5 to 3 in favor of troop 1 of Robbins. After the baseball game was over we were escorted to the airplane field and shown about the hangar The courtesy of the people of Robbins was so splendid it was even a small girl who escorted us to the home of the Mayor when w first arrived in Robbins. We had such a wonderful time while in Robbins we are planning another trip there in the futre.

9/10/32

Gary Indiana

Sincerely yours,
Clark Bullett, Sr.,
Scoutmaster of troo 5
Clrk Bullet, Jr.,
Senior Patrol Leader
Charles Graves,
Scribe.

Towns and Settlements-1935 Illinois.

Robbins, Ill.

Mr. Dotson is absent on a business trip. The deaconess and stewardess boards assisted by the ladies aid of Bethel church served a Halloween luncheon in the portable school building. It was well attended and the committee is very grateful to all who helped to make it a success.

The Halloween party given by the Women's Improvement club at their hall was largely attended despite the heavy rain.

Robbins is rejoicing over the WPA serving center to be opened here and which will afford paying positions for at least 25 women with Mrs. E. Proctor, district supervisor of the Cook County Bureau of Public Welfare Blue Island station, supervising.

Rev. and Mrs. William Hick of Toledo, Ohio, are visiting their brother and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Hollins, of 137th street and Trumbull avenue.

Members and friends of Wheeler Chapel C.M.E. church have been in close attendance at the annual conference of the C.M.E. church convening at Jubilee Temple, Chicago, and have high hopes of the re-appointment of Rev. Davis.

Sam Leeper, suffering from a heart attack, is improving.

Rev. Norma Harvey has returned to her home after an extensive tour through the state, holding evangelical services.

Rev. S. Gout, Mrs. Mabel Cole, and Mrs. Artie McGavock, R.N. have been asked to serve on the board for the South Side Convalescent home, 3736 Michigan avenue, of which Dr. Anna R. Cooper is founder and director. Mrs. McGavock is chairman of the house committee.

The Ministers' Union will hold its regular monthly meeting on the second Sunday, Nov. 10, at the Union Baptist church.

The C.M.E. conference convened Oct. 30. The Missionary Society was represented with two delegates. The pastor, Rev. Davis, represented the Wheeler Chapel church.

A splendid program was given by the Joe Louis' Boys club at the A. M. E. church Sunday. More will be heard from this club.

All Robbins news must be submitted to Mrs. McGavock of 137th street before Sunday afternoon.

Mrs. George Ann Porter of Chicago died at the County hospital Sunday. She was second cousin to Mrs. Anna May Garrison.

Your agent is Isaiah Johnson.

Defender 11-9-35 Chicago

Earl Morris "Discovers" All-Race Illinois Town

By EARL J. MORRIS
Staff Correspondent

CHICAGO, Nov. 21—Few people in America know that such a town as Robbins, Ill. exists. It is a progressive all-colored town, with a colored mayor. His name is John S. Richardson. He is serving his second term and is the only mayor to be so honored with re-election by his constituents. There are 2,000 inhabitants in this northern Illinois village. 98 per cent of the population being colored. It is two square miles in area and only a 40-minute ride to Chicago's Loop District.

His Honor, the mayor, told this writer that every citizen is a home-owner and like all corporate towns was busy making improvements. They are seeking a $90,000 government loan to install a sewerage system.

John Toman, Sheriff of Cook county, whose mandate takes in Robbins, was so pleased with the progressiveness of the citizens that he placed Mayor Richardson in his office as a deputy sheriff. Thus saving the village of a mayor's salary. Sheriff Toman stated "It is gratifying to see people working together for a mutual benefit."

William Rechord is chief of police. He has a force of eight men.

Richardson is 52 years of age, married and father of two grown children. His daughter is married.

Mayor Richardson concluding the interview, stated "I can readily see Haile Selassie's standpoint. I am indeed grateful to Sheriff Toman."

Courier 11-23-35 Pittsburgh

Rw

Towns and Settlements-1938

Illinois.

166

Robbins, Ill.

Court Won't Oust Mayor

1-1-38

BELLEVILLE, Ill., Dec. 31—Circuit Judge D. H. Mudge refused to entertain petitions to oust Mayor William Terry of Brooklyn, Ill., an all-Race town. He also refused to oust the entire township board of trustees.

CHICAGO BOASTS ALL-NEGRO TOWN

Robbins, Ill, Has Negro Mayor and Board of Trustees—Town's Population Is 2500 with 11 Churches.

CHICAGO, Sept. 22 — (By ANP)—Consideration of the general problems of Negro housing and efforts of the National Technical Association to have Negro engineers and architects employed for the proposed PWA South Park Gardens for Negroes here, turned public attention this week to the all-Negro town of Robbins, Ill., to see what success residents there have had in solving their housing and other civic problems.

9-24-38

Located on the far Southwest side of the city, Robbins has an area of about two square miles. It runs North and South, from 35th street to 143rd, and East and West from Sacramento avenue to Central Park avenue. The nearby village of Posen has 95 per cent Polish residents.

Philosophy of the town's civic, social and economic life is reflected in statements by Robbins' founder, Thomas J. Kellar and by Mayor J. S. Richardson who is also president of the village board of trustees. In 1917, when he asked the County Board to incorporate the Village of Robbins as a municipality of Cook county, Kellar said, "The real way to help colored people is to make it possible for them to help themselves. Give them transportation and housing and they will segregate themselves naturally."

Mayor Richardson admonished: "What the colored people need is less charity and more responsibility." Today, 2 years after its founding, Robbins, one of the four all-Negro towns in America, has a population of 2,500, 98 per cent of them Negroes. All civic and community activities are directed by Negroes. They hold their own elections, collect their own taxes, operate their own schools, maintain their own police and fire departments.

There are 11 churches, with the 12th under construction. Most picturesque Robbins resident is 100-year-old Thomas Harton, the oldest citizen who lives in a little house constructed by himself. Most all of the homes in the village have small, well kept gardens and the citizens have great pride. For the past 15 years, Leroy P. Thomas has been the postmaster and he fills his office with credit.

Aside from Mayor Richardson, whose daytime job is deputy sheriff in the office of John Toman, other Robbins officials are: O. W. Moore, village clerk; Frank Griffith, police magistrate, and Trustees Robert Washington, Marcellus Jones, Edward Brown, R. L. Allen, David Fox and Frank Beard.

Race is Proud of of Robbins, Ill., an All-Colored Town

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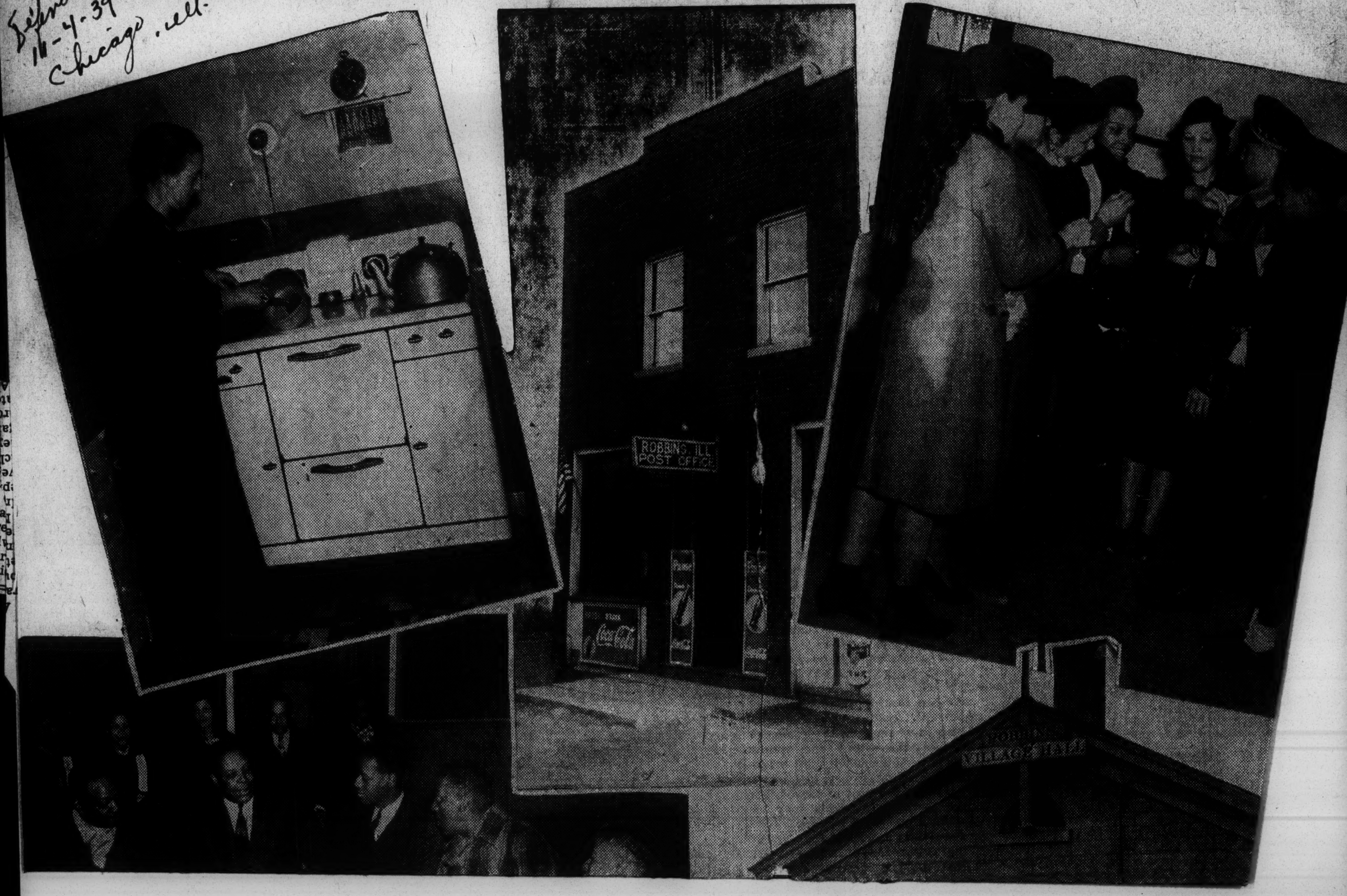
ROBBINS CELEBRATES 22ND ANNIVERSARY OF FOUNDING

Defender
11-4-39
Chicago, Ill.


ROBBINS, ILL.
POST OFFICE
Coca-Cola
ROBBINS
VILLAGE HALL

Ill. Town Gets $945,000 Loan

Afro-American

50

Bat. 11-3-51

WASHINGTON

Officials of Robbins, Ill., an all-colored community, signed final papers here, last Thursday, for a $945,000 loan from the Reserve Finance Corporation to assist in financing a $5,000,000 sewer and water mains project in the town.

While here the mayor, 4 trustees and two engineers of Robbins and Cook County, received commitment from the Redevelopment Administration for the county to contribute $,500,000 toward the project.

Baltimore

Coming to Washington for the negotiations were John S. Richardson, mayor; U. S. Turner, H. J. Jordan, Jordan Morris and Elbert Johnson, trustees; Walter Wilson, Robbins engineer; G. M. Jones and M. L. Smith, treasurer of the Cook County Housing Authority.

Robbins, Ill

50 1954

ROBBINS, ILLINOIS

Robbins, Ill.

Chicago Rainstorm Hits Nearby All-Negro Robbins

ROBBINS, Ill. — (ANP) — The worst rainstorm in 69 years in Chicago also fell on the nearby, all-Negro town of Robbins, Ill., early last week, driving 75 from their homes and causing damage upwards of $100,000.

Damage in Chicago was put above $10,000,000.

Several days after the last drops of rain spattered the streets and homes of this thriving community of 4,800, families were still unable to return to their homes.

One of the city's main streets was still impassable. However, all of the families were out of the care of relief agencies, either returning to their homes or homes of friends.

At one time water was over the beds in many homes in this hilly area southwest of Chicago. The weatherman said there was a total of 6.21 inches of rain falling in less than 24 hours.

Most of the streets, at the height of the storm, resembled Venetian canals and the Coast Guard had to bring boats overland from Lake Michigan to rescue stranded villagers.

Besides the Coast Guard, Red Cross and Robbins Fire department set up relief facilities There were no injuries or fatalities, however, in spite of the ferocity of the storm.

Robbins, hardest hit area in the drainage. The city is only now Chicago region, has only surface constructing a sanitary sewer, which will not even begin to be adequate for heavy rains. Next year, according to Mayor Theodore Hendricks, the town in cooperation with the Illinois State Division of Highways and roads will build storm sewers.

That the sewers will be at least a year late was more than evident as accurate damage estimates were still impossible to ascertain as much of the city could not be reached by dry land. The situation has been further complicated by the fact that light intermittent rain has fallen since the big storm at the beginning of the week

Although the light rains haven't added appreciably to the amount of water, it has considerably dampened the spirits of the townspeople.

Telephone lines were also still in the process of being put back up, after many poles were washed away by the rains.

Fire chief Edward Willett said the falling of the rain was bad enough, but the overflowing of a nearby stream is what caused the real difficulty

While Robbins was heavily flowed, most other areas heavily populated by Negroes in and around Chicago suffered very little from the storm. Chicago's South side, where most of the city's Negroes reside, is close to the lake and on high ground with fairly good drainage

However, many underpasses and viaducts were flooded, causing delays in public and private to transportation.

The only National Guard unit ordered into action during the course of the storm was the 178th Regimental Combat team, a Negro outfit. The guards patrolled and policed Calumet city, well known as a night club area. The city was hard hit like Robbins and the unit patrolled to prevent looting.

Flood Hits Robbins, 75 Families Out

By GEORGE DANIELS

ROBBINS, Ill., — The rains came to this small Illinois community last Saturday and Sunday, flooding parts of the town in water nearly 15 inches deep, driving at least 75 families from their homes and marooning several hundred others. Damage was estimated at close to $100,000.

Robbins was one of the communities hardest hit by the rain storm that swept Chicago, other outlying areas and parts of Indiana. It was the worst rainstorm to strike Chicago in 69 years, pouring down 6.21 inches of water and causing damages estimated above $10 million.

By Monday evening Robbins firemen had rescued 47 families by truck and boat. Twenty-three other families escaped the raging flood waters without aid.

At 11 p.m. Sunday at least a dozen parts of Robbins were covered in water estimated at 15 inches deep. But 24 hours later the level had dropped to nearly five inches, according to Fire Chief Edward Willett.

Robbins has an estimated population of 4,800 persons—all Negroes. They've had heavy rains before but Sunday's downpour was the worst in history. The area around 139th and Kedzie was hit hardest. Telephone lines were down and families living in first floor flats and cottages had to be evacuated. Second-story families were either marooned for hours or waded through the waters, made increasingly swift by the creek nearby that had overflowed.

Firemen here, led by Chief Willett, labored from 6 a.m. Sunday morning to 11 p.m. Monday night, rescuing residents. They set up emergency station in the one-truck firehouse that connects with the town jail. Red Cross workers established a shelter for the homeless families at the Lincoln Memorial elementary school. Two nurses, who work nights at the Oak Forest Infirmary, volunteered their services to flood victims during the day. They were Mrs. F. L Anderson and Mrs. Adele Benson.

A small community located Southwest of Chicago, just beyond 130th st., Robbins is an "up and down" town; part of it sits in nature-made valleys while other sections are on high ground. It was therefore destined that when the rains came Saturday and Sunday, the homes located in the lower sections around 135th st. to 139th st. and Kedzie ave. were to be flooded.

Among those families driven from their homes by the flood was, Mrs. Myrtle Bowen, 26, of 3201 W. 139th st. The Red Cross had given her and her five children shelter in the basement of the local school house. Her husband, John, had attempted on numerous occasions to save part of their belongings. He finally gave up. "It was no use," he said, "we might as well wait until the water goes down."

Another family was that of Mrs. Willie Thomas of 3206 W. 139th pl, She and her two children, Joe, 11 and Ruth 10. were also in the school, being cared for by Red Cross workers. Her husband dropped dead a year ago.

Red Cross workers operating the shelter were headed by Mrs. Alberta Curry, disaster chairman, of 13811 Central Park. She was being assisted by Mrs. Betra L. Hendricks, wife of the village president, Mayor Theodore Hendricks.

Other workers included Mrs. Frankie Wylie, of 13806 Central Park, and Mrs. Irma Allen of 13603 Monticello ave.

The actual damage of the flood here could not be determined until the families were returned to their homes. Some went back Wednesday. Others are still flooded out.

Early estimates of rain damages in Chicago alone were placed at over $10,000,000. The downpour ripped telephone wires and building foundations. It flooded basements, hindered huge electrical works and caused the Chicago River to overflow, forcing engineers to open locks reversing the river to pour out into Lake Michigan,

The Dearborn Street station was flooded and trains were tied-up for hours. Union Station lost an estimated $500,000 alone. Units of the 178th Regimental Combat Team were assigned to disaster areas under command of Col. Raymond Watkins, with headquarters in Calumet City.

If the rains subside long enough Robbins is expected to be back to normalcy by Saturday.

ROBBINS GROWS AND ITS CHURCH KEEPS ITS STEP

Daily Tribune
Chicago Ill.
50

Rev. Clifton J. Brown Plans Buildings

Sat. 2-15-58
p 7

BY ROI OTTLEY

Brown

The Rev. Clifton J. Brown, pastor of Great Hope Baptist church is typical of the south side clergymen who successfully minister to small outlying Negro congregations which lack resident pastors.

Robbins is an all-Negro incorporated town in Cook county with a population of 4,000.

The Rev. Mr. Brown, formerly pastor of a Henderson [Ky.] congregation of 1,000, assumed leadership of Great Hope in 1954. He has worked not only for the church but for the improvement of Robbins.

Congregation of 500

The church, with a congregation of 500, is 30 years old and was built by the first settlers of Robbins, it now contains Sunday school rooms, a dining room and kitchen, and a choir and board room.

The Negro minister is now planning the erection of a community center and a day nursery. The sudden swell in Robbins' population is placing more and more demands on the church. The congregation has been increased 200 by newcomers from the south.

Robbins, which has an imposing new high school, recently erected 500 single family dwellings, which were purchased within a short period. The town now plans thousands of new houses and a shopping center.

Native of St. Louis

The Rev. Mr. Brown himself has been unable to find adequate housing for his own family in Robbins, a fact which has complicated his work of ministering to his congregation.

The Rev. Mr. Brown was born in St. Louis Oct. 17, 1913. His father, Zerbie, was an electrician. He attended the Du Bois elementary school. After his graduation from Summer High school in 1936, he settled in Detroit.

For the next 10 years he worked in the personnel department of the Ford Motor company. In 1941 he entered the ministry and became a volunteer assistant to the Rev. Robert L. Bradby, pastor of the Second Baptist Church.

Settles in Chicago

He subsequently became a pastor of a church in DuQoin, Ill., and in 1950 settled in Chicago to assist the Rev. J. C. Austin, pastor of Pilgrim Baptist church, until he was called to the church in Robbins.

He is married to the former Dorothea Austin, a graduate of Roosevelt university and the Chicago Musical college. She is the daughter of the Rev. J. C. Austin, who ordained her husband a minister.

The Rev. Mr. Brown credits his wife, who also attended the University of Chicago, with considerable help in ministering to his Robbins flock. She not only visits the sick and teaches Sunday school but is the choir director and church organist.

President Of Negro Village Is Paid Honor

Journal & Guide

Norfolk, Va.

Sat. 9-3-60

p. 13

ROBBINS, Ill. — (ANP) — Ernest Maxey, village president of Robbins, has been honored by residents of this all-colored community 20 miles southwest of Chicago's Loop.

Maxey, president of the village board of trustees for the last three years, is credited with spearheading a program for various civic improvements.

These include construction of modern municipal building, laying of the first mile of sidewalks in the suburb and the inauguration of snow removal acitivities.

Robbins has an estimated population of 9.000.

50 1961

ROBBINS, ILLINOIS

Fraud Is Charged In All-Negro Town

The Pittsburgh Courier

Pittsburgh, Pa.

CHICAGO (ANP) — A Robbins resident has filed a court action against nine village officials, including Ernest Maxey, president, charging "a fraud has been committed" against the people and taxpayers of the all-Negro community.

D. 4-8-61

The resident, George Farmer, asked for an accounting of Robbins' income and expenses, a court-appointed commission to investigate acts of village officials and an injunction to restrain officials from interfering with Farmer and other citizens' inspection of the village's books.

Robbins, Ill.

Towns and Settlement -1931.

Indiana

Gary's Jubilee and the Negro

Gary American

6-18-31

THE celebration of the 25th anniversary of Gary's founding is an occasion which should swell the heart of every resident of the Steel City with civic pride. Perhaps no industrial community in the nation has developed as rapidly, or has been built up in so short a time as this city we call our home town. Nor are there very many industrial communities with so promising a future as this.

Gary, Ind.

Steel is one of the world's basic industries, and Gary's future rests securely upon a foundation of steel. There are no seasonal or tropical barriers to this flourishing industry whose very life is perpetual and usefulness without limit.

The celebration being held this week, is, however, much unlike the founding of the town. Very little or no part at all in today's celebration is being played by Negroes. This was not the case in Gary's beginning when Negro carpenters, Negro workmen and others labored with engineers and contractors to lay the town's foundation.

The building of this city, from the very beginning, was a task in which Negroes shared the burden of hard labor, and came here, leaving their families behind, to join with other pioneers in the development of the new town.

Today, these husky pioneers whose brains and brawn were utilized in developing the City of Steel sit silently by, without honor or part in the celebration of the twenty-fifth birthday of the city they helped to found, but is this not always the reward of the black man in America?

Gary, Indiana

Towns and Settlements-1933.

Indiana.

125

Indiana Man Was First Negro Postmaster North of Dixie

3-16-33

2-16-33

"Former postmaster" is a title not many people who have passed life's meridian can boast of. To have garnered the added distinction of being the first Negro postmaster north of the Mason and Dixon line adds scintillating brilliance to the achievement.

All the way round, the record of William H. Roundtree, retired "first citizen" of Lyles, Indiana, is unique. Though a rock-ribbed republican, he was appointed as postmaster of Lyles, Indiana in 1885 by President Grover Cleveland, a democratic.

Mr. Roundtree was born 1860 within one mile of the little village of Lyles, an all Negro settlemen to which he gave its name.

He has seen the town grow from a mere handful of former slaves to a thriving hamlet of fifty families, the great majority of whom own their own homes.

At one time Mr. Roundtree operated the general store, typical of the American villages of yesteryear. He also owned and operated a grain elevation that did a thriving business; and to round out a busy life, and vari-colored career, this versatile and much beloved pioneer taught for a number of years in the district's rural schools, in the days of the horse and buggy and bumpy roads.

Recorder

At that time, there was no rail, no town marshall, or no fire department.

Even today only one church—A. M. E. serves the community and religious needs.

Mr. Roundtree has three children, a son, Edgar, age 46; two daughters, Mrs. Lelia Murray, 46, Indianapolis, and Mrs. Clementine Cottce, 33, Washington, Ind.

Though 73 years of age, Mr. Roundtree is still active on the farm on which he lives.

NEWLY ORGANIZED CO-OPERATIVE MOVES TO COLLECT LARGE SUM FOR PURCHASE OF FARM LANDS

Recorder 12-16-33

The Consumers Co-Operative Unit, recently organized for the purpose of aiding the Negro to secure economic and financial independence, will begin a campaign next week to collect $4,500 for purchase of five hundred and sixty-eight acres of farm land to be used by the Unit for cultivating of products it later will market, leaders of the movement have announced.

4500 Negroes will be asked to subscribe one dollar each to raise the sum desired. While membership in the organization exceeds this number, collection of funds will be limited to the actual amount needed, Dr. Benjamin A. Osborne, president of the Unit said.

The proposed site for the initial operations of the co-operative is located on State Road 40, fifteen miles from the city limits of Indianapolis. The Belleville Township school is situated on the western boundary of the farm which has a road frontage of one and one quarter miles. Two houses and a large barn are included in the purchase. The farm has a natural water supply of five wells. It is traversed east and west by a small stream.

258

50 1958 NEW ALBANY, INDIANA

Negro Teachers Sacrificed In New Albany

Tenure Evasion Is Big Problem

Louisville Ky

By Clarence L. Matthews

Like Jeffersonville, another twin city, located across the Ohio river from Louisivlle is Indiana, is New Albany, a town which since it's ince[illegible] by leaps and bounds to become a sprawling city of over 40.000 inhabitants.

Louisville Defender

New Albany is also the proposed beginning of a expressway to join it with Louisville in the vicinity of Shawnee park. It is already the hub of North and South traffic traveling through Indianapolis to Louisville and points further south.

Issue 8-7-58

Scribner Brothers

The city came into being through the foresight and enterprise of the Scribner brothers, early pioneers in the Ohio valley. In 1813, the brothers, Abner, Nathaniel and Joel, purchased 86 and one half acres of land from Colonel John Paul and platted hte future city of New Albany.

The name "New Albany" was given to city by the brothers in honor of the capital of their native state of New York. The city, strategically located on the Ohio river, enjoyed early fame as a trading post and stop over water route for travelers on the Ohio. It was also the scene of successful battle maneuvers conducted by General Rodgers Clark during the revolutionary war.

As in Jeffersonville, the economy and social welfare of New Albany is closely connected with that of Louisville. The toll bridge, which services the thousands of commuters between the cities daily, is owned by the K and I.

The bridge, which now plays a vital part in the economy of each city, was originally a trussel. The present bridge was started in 1910 and completed in 1912. Prior to the building of the bridge, the Rush ferry boats carried many of the commuters back and forth between the two cities.

Today, New Albany has advanced to a fourth class city by reason of it's steadily advancing population. Many plans are now being laid to improve the Ohio river city and accommodate the expected influx of population.

Mayor of New Albany is C. P. Erni, who is currently serving in his second term in office. Civic officials revealed that a sewage disposal project including trunk lines and lateral sewers is to begin construction in the near future. The project will cost in excess of $4,000,000.

Also the site of a new city-county building has been chosen and a new junior high school is scheduled to go under construction this fall. The department of streets, is embarking on a street resurfacing program.

As in other communities of the Falls City area, New Albany is also trying to attract new industry. The mayor's office revealed that the Pillsbury plant will erect a new buliding here and provide new employment for hundreds in the city.

&3

The recent increase in the population of New Albany can be attributed to migrators from parts of the "deep" South and from the Louisville area. Many Louisvillians, white and Negro, finding the New Albany location conducive to their living standards, have transplanted themselves here.

Currently the Negro population of New Albany is estimated in the neighborhood of 2,000. Most of this segment of the population is Democratic, as is the white citizenry, and Protestant in religious affairs. As a whole they are non-professional with no Negro doctors, dentists or lawyers living in the community.

Most of the Negro wage and salary earners in New Albany rely heavily on Louisville for a livelihood. Many residents work at the General Electric Appliance Park, currenty on strike. Many of New Albany were employed at the Jeffersonville Quartermaster Depot prior to this plant closing several years ago. For the Negro populace, at least, New Albany has served as a suburb of Louisville.

For the past five years, two Negroes have been members of the New Albany police force. Six Negroes are members of the city fire department. No Negroes are in legislative or advisory capacities with the local city government.

Negro business is New Albany is relegated to the service type enterprises. At the present there are several, restaurants and beauty parlors within the city limits. One Negro is the proprietor of a combination bar and lunch counter and also has license to sell package liquor. This business is located to the right of the toll K and I bridge entering the city.

One of the foremost single problems confronting the Negro citizens of New Albany is question of the ever vanishing Negro teacher. As in Jeffersonville, compliance to the state of Indiana law to desegregate the schools meant the sacrificing of the Negro teacher.

However, in New Albany, six Negro teachers, who are on a tenure basis, remain in the Floyd county school system. All of these instructors are employed at the all Negro Griffin Elementary school, located across from the new city housing projects for Negroes, which cost in excess of $1.000,000 to build.

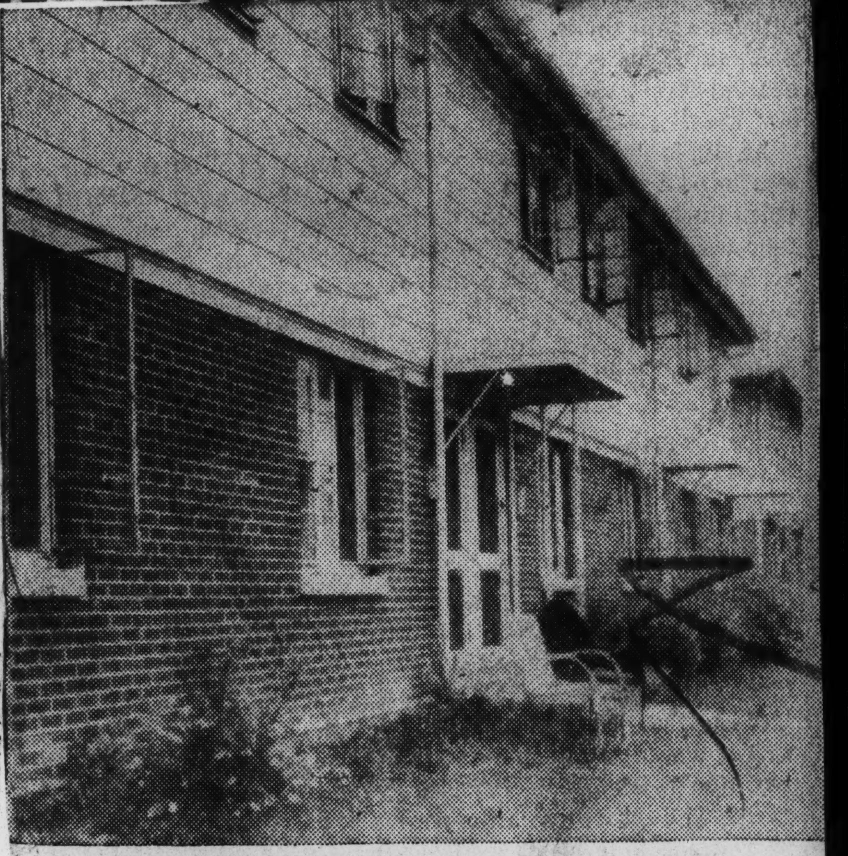
Many of the teachers at the elementary school were former members of hte faculty of the now deactivated Scribner Negro high school. It would seem that many of these teachers, by virture of their experience and tenure, would have been placed on th faculty of New Albany High School.

During the period of integration, the Negro teachers at the high school were offered jobs in the bookstores and cafeterias of the white high school. Most of these teachers have been in the systems for fifteen or twenty years and are approaching retirement.

Principal Leaves

As in the case of the ex-principal of the Griffin school, Ivan Samuels, young Negro instructors are signed on a year to year basis with no tenure contract. Samuels accepted a position in the Gary Indiana school system when it was known that he would not be put on tenure in his sixth year. This was his fifth contract coming up. The Superintendent had reportedly recommended him for tenure.

The most promising development for Negroes of New Albany is the development of a citizens group to help the cause of Negro progress. The league, which is composed of prominent and thinkin members of the community, promise to advance the cause of the Negro to secure his just position in New Albany.



A VIEW OF THE Modern New Albany projects

Above is the Griffin Elementary School of New Albany.

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Charter Granted For All-Negro Town In Indiana

Daily World

(50)

Atlanta, Ga.

Sat. 5-22-48

LOUISVILLE— (ANP)— Official sanction for the building of an all Negro town near this city was given a realty firm last week. The Lincoln Park Property Owners, Inc., was granted by the state of Indiana a charter to build a town just north of Jeffersonville, Ky.

The firm plans to build 2,000 homes and business establishments near the junction of U. S. highways 23 and 31 E. Already 100 lots have been sold, William Lorraine Mix, firm attorney said. 5-22-48

A water system and sewage-disposal system, roads, commercial houses, hotels, bus lines, cemetery and school buildings will be constructed by the company according to the charter. Sat

With a capitalization of $1,660 the corporation has been authorized to sell 2,000 shares of stock at $50. a share. Stockholders are limited to property owners. Randall E. Action, manager of the Grand View Veterans Housing Project in Louisville is president of the new group.

Firm Is Granted Charter To Build Negro Town

The Courier-Journal

(50) Ind.

Louisville, Ky.

Lincoln Park Property Owners, Inc., was chartered by Indiana yesterday for the purpose of building a Negro community north of Jeffersonville. Fri. 5-14-48

Incorporators hope to begin work in a few months on the previously announced project to be located on 406 acres near the junction of U. S. Highways 231 and 31-E. Some 2,800 homes and business establishments are planned. William Loraine Mix, attorney for the gorup, said about 1,200 lots have been sold.

In corporation papers authorize Lincoln Park to install its own water and sewage-disposal system, to construct and maintain roads, commercial houses, hotels, bus lines, and school buildings, and to establish a cemetery. The corporation's capitalization was listed at $1,660. It was authorized to sell 2,000 shares of stock at a par value of $50 a share, with stockholders restricted to property owners. Fri. 5-14-48

President of the organization is Randall E. Acton, 740-F S. Hancock, now manager of the Grand View Veterans Housing Project, Louisville.

Lincoln Park, Ind.

Negroes Building Town Of Own In Indiana

Courier-Journal

Louisville, Ky.

54

Will Buy Materials Co-operatively to Reduce Cost of 2,800 Homes and Business Houses

A whole new city of modern homes and stores will be built from the ground up across the Ohio River near Jeffersonville.

Its builders will be Negroes from seven states, working and buying materials co-operatively to cut the cost of the 2,800 homes and business houses which ultimately will make up the 406-acre community.

Guiding the development, believed to be the first of its kind in the United States, is a 49-year-old Minneapolis white man, George Barker, and a co-operative association headed by the president of Simmons University, Dr. Marshall Bell Lanier.

First Section Is 186 Acres.

The community had its beginning several years ago when Barker's company, the National Land Company, Minneapolis, bought the first tract for the project along Highway 231 north of Jeffersonville. Since then, Barker said, the company has purchased additional land until the project has grown to 406 acres.

According to Barker, who lives at 313 S. Western Parkway, he was sent here a year ago to sell Negroes the first section of the community — 186 acres divided into 1,480 lots.

"Naturally, my interest in the project was strictly commercial —at first," he said yesterday. "But now the community has become a mania with me.

"Actually, by job as far as the company is concerned is finished here. All the lots in the first section have been sold and I've got my commissions on the sales. I could leave now, but I'm not going to. I want to help these people get decent homes."

Courier-Journal

Wins Praise of Negro Leaders.

Louisville, Ky.

Barker's efforts in behalf of the 1,480 lot owners in the new community have won for him the praise of Negro leaders here. "We were suspicious at first," Randall Acton, manager of the Negro housing project for veterans at 38th and Grand. "We investigated the whole thing and are now convinced Mr. Barker is genuinely interested in helping us.' Courier-Journal

Acton, who is first vice-president of the co-operative formed by 300 of the lot owners recently, declared: "This is no fly-by-night affair. It's a great opportunity for my people." Louisville, Ky.

Discussing plans for the new community, which will be called Lincoln Park, Ind., Barker said most of the Negroes who bought lots in the first section are from Louisville. Others, he added, are from elsewhere in Kentucky and from Tennessee, Louisiana, Alabama, Georgia, Virginia, and West Virginia.

He said the co-operative and his company already are receiving inquiries about the second section, a 220-acre tract adjacent to the initial development. There will be at least 1,400 lots in the second section when it is opened.

Streets Have Been Laid.

Thur.

"That'll be some time later. We want to get most of the houses in the first section built first," he said. 10-16-47

Barker said streets have been laid in the first section and work on the first 22 homes will begin "within a week or 10 days." By January 1, he went on, 150 more lot owners will be ready to start building, and by June 200 more.

The houses will be built by an all-Negro construction company headed by Henry Vaden, Nashville, Barker said. Vaden himself owns lots in Lincoln Park and so do most of the 35 skilled workers he will bring with him to work on the new community, according to the real-estate man.

Other construction workers will be hired here, but they will all be lot owners in Lincoln Park, Barker related. All construction workers, skilled or otherwise, will be paid $1 an hour through an agreement with the co-operative association, according to Acton.

Will Build Theater.

Oct. 16-47

"It's all being done co-operatively," Acton declared. Once the houses are started, he explained, work will begin on a water system for the community. A theater and supermarket will be built and operated co-operatively, he added. Acton said other stores also will be built in the 4½-acre area set aside for a business district, but they will be privately owned.

Acton said materials for the new homes and buildings will be purchased jointly and in large quantity by the lot owners.

According to Barker, most of the homes will be made of treated concrete block and will have steel window casements. Nearly all will have two or more bedrooms, and will cost from $3,500 to $10,000, depending on what the lot owner can and wants to spend, he went on.

54 Ind.

Five Floor Plans Drawn.

"But there'll be no tar-paper shacks, or other substandard homes in Lincoln Park," he declared. "Five general floor plans have been drawn by an architect. These are available for use by the lot owners, but they don't have to use them." Thur. 10-16-47

All the co-operative arrangements for labor, materials, and financing are being handled by the lot owners through their Lincoln Park Home Owners Co-operative Association which was formed recently. Besides Dr. Lanier and Acton, other officials of the groups are: second vice-president, Randolph Blackburn; secretary-treasurer, John Benjamin Horton, Jr.; secretary-treasurer of the building department, Paul V. Davis, and assistant secretary, Samuel O. Seay.

Acton said funds for construction of the water system, theater, supermarket and other community requisites are being obtained through purchase of shares by the co-operative members.

CENTRAL SOUTH

Growth of All-Negro Town Watched With Interest

Times

54

By GRADY CLAY

New York, N.Y.

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

LOUISVILLE, Ky., Oct. 25—Real estate men here are watching with keen interest the development of plans for a new all-Negro town of more than 2,000 families four miles north of Louisville on the Indiana side of the Ohio River.

More than 1,400 Negroes from eight states — but mostly from Louisville — already have bought lots. Eventually the town, Lincoln Park, Ind., is to cover 400 acres, with its own business section.

The projected town had its start in 1945, when a Minneapolis real estate firm bought the land as a speculative venture. It sent George Barker, a 49-year-old salesman, to Louisville to sell lots to Negroes on a 6 per cent commission. 54

Then the familiar pattern changed. Mr. Barker had sold thirty lots when building costs began to jump. The first Negro lot owners formed "clubs" to buy building materials in large volume at lower costs. At Mr. Barker's suggestion they merged into the Lincoln Park Home Owners Cooperative Association. Ind.

Mr. Barker and the forty-four association trustees have big plans. They hope to lick the acute Negro housing shortage here by building two and three bedroom homes at $3,500 to $10,000. An all-Negro construction company, with skilled workers at $1 an hour, arrived last week to start building. Lot owners will help. Streets have been graded. Twenty-two Negro families plan Christmas dinners in their new homes, says Mr. Barker.

At first many of the Negroes were suspicious of Mr. Barker, having learned through experience about "friendly" white men and gigantic lot sales. Then they decided he meant what he said, and that he plans to stick with the project until it is on its own feet.

If completed according to plan, it will have a cooperative supermarket and theatre. A bus line will connect with downtown Louisville, where most lot owners work at medium salaries. 10-26-47

News Note: Kentuckians will vote Nov. 4 on the question of calling a convention to revise their State Constitution.

Lincoln Park Indiana

Strange Life In Borderline, U. S. A

Defender
Dat 3-24-51
Chicago Ill.

INTERIOR VIEW of Six Oaks tavern. Behind the cash register are owners, Bill and Veronica Arnett.

PATROLMEN Leslie Sanders and William Whittaker and Chicago Defender reporter, George E. White.

Evansville, Ind.
a border Town

Indiana Town Can't Make Up Its Mind

Defender

50

By GEORGE E. WHITE

WHEN AMERICAN NEGROES speak of a "borderline city," they are often referring to those cities near the infamous and imaginary "Mason and Dixon" line rather than those on our international boundaries. A good example of the border town is Evansville, Ind.

Some 300 miles south of Chicago and nestling on the southwestern tip of Indiana, it is truly a paradoxical city. Here you will find influences and patterns of both the North and South violently contrasted.

The Ohio river at Evansville serves a dual purpose. It is the boundary between Indiana and Kentucky and it indicates where the North ends and the South begins.

Resent Jim Crow

Dat 3-24-51

As in most of America's communities, Negroes resent the attempts to set them aside from the favored citizenry. Groups of organized colored residents of Evansville fight quietly but deteminedly to make the Northern customs absorb the Southern.

The odds are against the militant Negro in many local jim crow situations but one spokesman insists that since Negroes and whites mingle freely in some areas of community life, the fight for full integration will continue until all segregation is wiped out.

For many years, Evansville was known as a "dead" city and Negro migrants from the South have made it their business to avoid settling there. Although many used to stop and make their homes in Evansville, the majority now move on to Indianapolis or Chicago.

Southern whites, moving North, have no such desire, however, and they settle immediately in the Southern Indiana metropolis. The great number of Southern white migrants undoubtedly accounts for the Dixie flavor found in Evansville. Jim crow is the main cause of mal-content among the city's Negro residents.

Evansville maintains separate and "unequal" educational facilities for Negroes. There are three schools for Negroes and fourteen for whites. Negro schools are Third Avenue, Chestnut Walnut, both elementary schools, and Lincoln high, which carries grades 6 through 12. The town's leading Negro educator is William Best, the principal of Lincoln high.

There is no segregation on the city busses, but on interstate vehicles leaving Evansville for points South, Negroes are seated to the rear. Likewise, there is no segregation in the waiting rooms or eating places at the bus and railroad terminals.

Neither do the five-and-dime stores segregate colored diners at their luncheon counters, but it is not advisable for Negro citizens to seek admittance to other downtown restaurants.

The Movie Problem

In the movie theatres, the usher will always lead you to the second balcony and if you protest will tell you there are no seats available elsewhere. If you still protest, he may find you a seat at a lower level.

Then you standthe risk of being called names by white people sitting around you. Most Negroes, rather than face intimidation, voluntarily seat themselves in the second balconies at downtown theatres.

Lincoln ave. is the "main stem" of the city's colored community. Grand man of the avenue is Dr. D. B. Cabell, proprietor of Cabell's pharmacy at 407 Lincoln. In his employ is youthful Dr. Clone Clay, popular pharmacist and clerk.

The pains of Evansville's colored citizenry are administered to by Dr. James Brown Jr., Dr. Albert Heard and Drs. Baylor Robinson and Jackson. Negro dentists are Dr. Denby and Dr. Raymond King, who was a major in the Army medical corps during World War II. There is also one colored dental technician in the city.

Plan for Hopital

There is no all-colored hospital here but Dr. Albert Heard is currently working on plans to establish one. A jim crow annex at Evansville's city hospital is reserved for Negroes.

Pretty and petite Dorothy Ford is the receptionist at Dr. Brown's office. She is representative of the energetic group of young people in Evansville who constantly fight the barriers of segregation in their town.

She is the only Negro member of the Medical Assistants Association of Vanderburg County and the only member of her race in the local chapter of the Woman's International Bowling Congress.

Evansville Negroes point with pride to the city's colored policemen. There are eight of them — six uniformed and two plainclothesmen. They patrol the Negro districts but, unlike colored officers in the southern cities, they are not restricted to arresting Negroes alone.

Six Oaks

By far the town's leading tavern is the modern Six Oaks Tavern. Owners and operators are Bill and Veronica Arnett, two very pleasant people. Mrs. Arnett is a former Chicagoan and a medical doctor. She is known around Chicago as Dr. Veronica Washington.

Her uncle is Atty. Sol Clanton and she is the cousin of Dr. Harold Washington and Atty. O'Neal, all of Chicago.

In their quest for fine food and drink, Evanvillians invariably wind up at the Casa Blanca Club, which is owned by Sidney Heard. His establishments offers courteous service and wholesome food. Incidentally, Heard has been a reader of the Chicago Defender for 20 years.

Housing looms as one of the greatest obstacles to progress among Evansville Negroes. Dingy tenements and shacks in the colored residential area rival those to be found anywhere. Many Negroes are able to afford better housing but there is none available.

Lincoln Gardens is the lone public housing development for Negroes. While it is appropriate it is quite inadequate to care for the urgent need for better housing.

High Paying Jobs

Some of Evansville's colored people have jobs that pay top salaries, like Horace Houston, shipping clerk at the biggest wholesale drug firm in the city. Other good paying jobs are found at the huge Chrysler and International Harvester plants.

Included in the group of Evansville business men is young and intelligent Jesse Pitt, photographer. It is he who, with Harvey Johnson, owner of the Empire Cab Co., may be able to save what is left of Negro business in this Indiana town.

The religious forces do their part in helping Negro citizens face the everyday task of fighting, segregation and unequal opportunities. The fine Evansville churches play a great role in the drama of Evansville's colored life.

Summarily, no one can deny that there is ample reason to call Evansville a "dead city." Yet it has potentialities of becoming a great center of Negro activity and culture.

Defender
Natl 3-24-51

EVANSVILLE'S LEADING CITIZENS gather at Cabell's pharmacy during the afternoon and evening. Left to right are Dr. Raymond King, dentist; M. B. Anderson, tax consultant; Dr. B. Cabell, pharmacist, Clarence Sanderson and Clone Clay, pharmacist.—Photos by Jesse Pitt.

Towns and Settlements-1932

Iowa.

117

Buxton, Iowa

THE BUXTON REUNION

Iowa [illegible]

[illegible]

Almost five thousand colored and white people, former residents and friends of the old Buxton mining camp, gathered at the spot in Monroe County Sunday for a second annual reunion.

Every conceivable class of persons was there and because of that fact some observers were particularly watchful of the deportment of the crowd. No fights, no arguments, no drunks on the ground. It was simply an old neighborhood gathering of white and colored people one liked to watch.

This could not have happened twenty years ago and this brings us to the conclusion that after all the world is not getting any worse.

The pickets who propose to keep farmers from bringing foodstuffs to market are not making friends by their program of law breaking.

Most people sympathize with the plight of the farmer but they are not in accord with an illegal program to better that situation. Farmers are generally too slow to anger for this kind of a protest which makes one wonder if the protesters are really farmers.

Towns and Settlements - 1934

Iowa.

"Phantom" City to Be Mecca for Homecoming

By Everett Wadsworth
Staff Writer

Bystander

8-31-34

Des Moines

More than five thousand white and colored residents will trek back to Iowa's "phantom" city for the fourth annual Buxton homecoming celebration to be held there Sunday. Sons and daughters of the once thriving mining town of 6,500 will return from all parts of the United States and in all walks of life to recall the good old days "way back when.'

Byron J. Allen, superintendent of the old age pension commission, will give the afternoon address, Eric F. Brown, general chairman, said Friday. J. C. Lewis, president of the Iowa Federation of Labor, will introduce the speaker. Baseball, races, music, dancing, basket dinner and program have been planned.

Incorporated in 1902

Iowa's most noted mining camp was incorporated in 1902 by B. C. Buxton of Vermont, then general superintendent of the Consolidated Coal company, a subsidiary of the Northwestern railroad, who moved the mining camp from Muchakinock, in Mahaska county, to Monroe county. Serving the company until the mines closed in 1924 were Mr. Buxton, E. M. Baysor of Albia, John P. Reese of Albia and F. S. Pfahler of Chicago.

Annual Payroll $1,000,000

The annual payroll of the Consolidated Coal company exceeded $1,000,000, with a daily tonnage average of 3,500. In 1914 more than 1,500 men were on the payrool, the largest number ever employed there at the mines.

All that now remains of the once flourishing locality is an abandoned corn field; not even weather worn buildings or crumbling foundations remain to remind its old timers of days of past glory and forgotten events.

Old Timers To Meet

Not only in the commercial, business and professional world have Buxtonites reached the "top," but athletics, music and the education have been glorified by former Iowans who began their careers there.

This historic community has physically passed away to dust, but the memories of the past will live again Sunday as "buddies" will recall, "Do you remember that time when—."

Buxton, Iowa

Towns—1922

Kansas.

47

NEGRO IMMIGRATION TO KANSAS

Topeka Kansas Plain Dealer 1/20/22

There was a large immigration of colored people to Graham county in 1877. The first colony of thirty came from Topeka, with W. H. Smith and Z. T. Fletcher, both colored, president and secretary. They were orignally from Kentucky. The second colonly of 250 in numbers also came from that state. This colony arrived in 1877, under the leadership of the Rev. Mr. Bell, colored arriving at Nicademus. It was worked up by W. R. Hill, now dead, who is entitled to much of the credit in getting the colored people to immigrate to Graham county. The county seat of the county is Hill City, and in honor of thi sman the town was named. The third coony, also from Kentucky, numbering 150, reached Nicodemus in charge of Hill in March 1878. The fourth and fifth coonies under the leadership of a minister named Goodwin and S. P. Roundtree, and numbering in the first fifty, and the other twenty-five, came from Mississippi and Kentucky. These families of colored people as a general rule brought wtih them some readf cash and household effects. Besides the state gave them some aid while J. P. St John was governor. On their arrival at Nicodemus, the heads of the families went to work at whatever they could find and the women held lown the homesteads. Horses and vehicles were scarce, and many of them were known to carry their flour from Ellis, the nearest railroad point, a distance of 35 miles, on their backs. They were ignorant of farming in western Kansas, had no teams to speak of, nor implements and many used spades to work garden patches. It was common sight to see them walking to and from Ellis, carrying large burdens. The Nicodemus charter was issued in 1877, with the following officers: W. H. Smith, president; Berry Carr, vice president; S. P. Roundtree, secretary; W. R. Hill, manager and locator. Circulars were printed and addreessed to the colored people of Kentucky and Tennessee, setting forth the propositions of the organization and the benefits of their locating on government lands and securing homes in Graham county. Most of them located in Nicodemus township and in pioneer times the thrifty town of Nicodemus built up. Your correspondent remembers his first visit to the town. It had two newspapers, hotel, two general stores, bank, drugs, and other business enterprises. They looked for the extension of the Missouri Pacific from Stockton, and had hopes of securing the Union Pacific. Neither one has ever reachel Nicodemus. The town commenced to go backward and in a few years her business moved to other towns. In later years the country commenced to prosper, farmers commenced making some money, the sod homes gave way to frame and stone, and some of them ment to raising hogs and cattle. But Nicodemus never came up agoin. Several of the coored people were honored with political offices. E. P. McCabe, once county clerk, later assistant state auditor two terms. He was a lawyer; J. R. Hawkins served in the office of clerk of court, John Deprad was county clerk, W. L. Sayers has served as county attorney and is now one of the leading attorneys of the Sixth district, Lewis Welton and Daniel Hickman have served the county as commissioners and George W. Jones was a candidate for congress in the Phillipsburg convention, besides served Graham county as county clerk. On account of crop failures many of them drifted elsewhere, but one thing sure, those who staid, many of them own from 320 acres to a section. And they are well served with schools and churches.

—Harry Root in the Topeka Daily Capital.

✓ Nicodemus

In Graham County, Kansas—
In Nicodemus township

Mississippi

50 1950

d Anniversary ng Observed by Mound Bayou, Miss.

economic stardards, social and living conditions

50

(By Special Correspondent)

MOUND BAYOU, Miss. — When the all-Negro community celebrates its sixty-third anniversary starting July 12, the Founders Day address will be delivered by Atty Alfred R. Taylor, law partner in the firm of Perkins and Taylor, Jacksonville.

A recent graduate of the Law School of the University of Southern California, the attorney who is now a resident of Jacksonville will serve as representative of Florida's Gov. Fuller Warren and Jacksonville's Mayor Haydon Burns, both of whom have appointed Taylor to extend greetings to the citizens of Mound Bayou on the occasion of their Founders Day celebration.

Founded by Isaiah T. Montgomery and Benjamin T. Green in 1887 the early settlers of Mound Bayou were ex-slaves of Jefferson Davis, president of the Confederacy and Joe Jefferson.

The prospering colored community where Attorney Taylor saw four years of service as principal of the Junior High School is located on the Mississippi delta about 100 miles south of Memphis, Tenn., on the winding Yazoo and Mississippi Valley Railroad.

All of the town's officials are Negroes, including Mayor B. A. Green, son of one of the founders and a graduate of Howar Law School who has held th post of Mayor since 1920.

During the past ten years th population of the thriving tow has increased from 800 to 1,3 persons. It services an area thirty-six miles and a tradi population of 8,000.

All land in the area is own by members of the all-Neg town who represent a group progressive Negroes working unity and harmony to impr

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50 1951

Kansas

Nicodemus, Kas.

Nicodemus, Kas. — Mrs. Bessie Reece, who spent a month visiting her mother, Mrs. Effie Moore and other relatives, returned to Garden City, Kas., the week of April 2.

The play, "Kidnapping Betty," which was presented on Friday evening, April 6, by the members of Naomi chapter No. 25, O. E. S., will be given again on Friday evening, May 18 at the community hall.

The Willing Workers H. D. U. was entertained on Tuesday afternoon, April 3, at the home of Mrs. Gwendolyn Jones with Mrs. Jones and Mrs. Nellie Buckner as hostesses. The president, Mrs. Marie White, presided during the business session. Thirteen members and one visitor, Mrs. Thelma Bronson, answer roll call with "The Name and description of a Foreign Capitol." Mrs. Bronson joined the unit. The lesson on "Safety and Fix It" was given by the leaders, Mrs. Velva Williams and Mrs. Cordelia Alexander. Many interesting and practical facts were presented. The hostesses served a very tasty luncheon and meeting adjourned to meet May 1 with Mrs. Cordelia Alexander and Mrs. Verna Napine as hostesses.

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The Nicodemus Jolly-Jay-Hawkers 4-H club met Wednesday evening April 4, with Audrey Clark as hostess at the home of Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Clark. All members and ten visitors: Mesdames Velva Williams, Bernice Jones, Luella Bronson, Cordelia Alexander, Mr. and Mrs. Warren Buckner, Mr. and Mrs. Clark and Carolyn Craig were present. The club was glad to receive a new member, Miss Joan Reece, making a membership of twenty-four. The hostess, assisted by Mrs. Clark, served a delicious lunch. Next meeting will be May 2 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Dabney.

Alonzo Alexander, accompanied by Andrew and Earl Alexander and Alfred Vanduvall, motored to Denver, Colo., Friday morning, April 13 to spend the week end and attend the basketball game of the Globetrotters.

A township meeting was held at the school building on Friday evening April 13, with a large attendance. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss what information should be requested of the Kansas State college extension service in 1951 in home economics and agriculture. The 4-H club vice-president, Mrs. Nellie Bucker, presided. The county agent, Mr. Rector, was present and showed some movies and also make a talk explaining the work.

The American Legion met in their social meeting for the month in the legion home Friday evening, April 13. An enjoyable evening was spent playing bingo, afterwhich refreshments were served. There will be a business meeting Tuesday evening, April 24. All members are requested to be present.

The members of the Priscilla Art club will have an entertainment and give away a quilt on one holding the lucky number on Friday evening, April 20, at the community hall.

Mrs. Verna Napue went to Lincoln, Nebr., via Phillipburg, Kas. Sunday night, April 8.

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Call
4-20-51
Kansas City
Mo
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Nicodemus, Kansas

50 1953

NICODEMUS, KANSAS

236

Nicodemus Post Office Closed by U.S.

Pittsburgh Courier

NICODEMUS, Kan.—The local post office has been discontinued after seventy-years of service to this community.

The first postmaster was Mrs. Jennie Fletcher, whose husband, Z. T., walked to Ellis, a distance of forty miles, once a month taking the outgoing mail and bringing back the incoming. Other postmasters were G. M. Sayers, Jeff Wyatt, P. W. Coleman, Mrs. W. C. Garland, Mrs. Elmer Grifñe and J. D. Wilson, all of whom were Negroes excepting Wyatt.

Nicodemus was reputedly the oldest Negro-supervised post office in the United States.

Nicodemus Folks Fight Closing of Post Office

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NICODEMUS, Kansas — The people of Nicodemus are fighting to keep their post office in operation. Word was received here recently from Post Master General Summerfield that the post office in this Negro town was being discontinued after more than [illegible] years of service to this community and others near by.

The local citizens have sent petitions to Post Master Summerfield urging that the post office remain open. Letters also have been sent to Congressman Wint Smith and to Senator Frank Carlson.

The Nicodemus post office was established in July, 1878, under the administration of President Rutherford B. Hayes, Republican.

It has had a long and colorful history.

The first local postmaster was Mrs. Jennie Fletcher. Once a month, her husband, Z. T. Fletcher, walked to Ellis, a distance of 40 miles, carrying the outgoing mail and bringing in the incoming mail.

Other postmasters through the years have been: G. M. Sayers, who had the longest years of service; Jeff Wyatt, white, who had the shortest; P. W. Coleman, Mrs. W. C. Garland, Mrs. Elmer Griffie and J. D. Wilson, the present postmaster.

Since people in other towns and states have become interested in the history of Nicodemus, letters and cards have been sent here from many places to be stamped with the Nicodemus postmark. So far as information is available, this is the oldest Negro post office in the United States.

The petition sent to the postmaster general was circulated by Mrs. Homer White. It was signed by many of the patrons and others who are interested in keeping this historic landmark.

Call

Kansas City

276

N KANSAS

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All-Negro Town Fails to Integrate

Atlanta Constitution p. 32

Atlanta, Ga.

Sun., 10-4-64

By WILLIAM M. BLAIR

(c) 1964 New York Times News Service

NICODEMUS, Kan., Oct. 3—This small farm town on the high plains of Kansas is beset with problems that face other small rural communities.

Its children grow up and leave because there is nothing to hold them to the soil. Its old folks hang on to what they have, some resisting any change violently. Its younger people seek a better life for themselves and their children and grow away. Many have gone to metropolitan centers in Colorado and California.

However, there is a difference about Nicodemus. It is an all-Negro community, founded by Negroes in 1877 when this was a country of buffalo grass and rattlesnakes.

THE NEGROES escaped the South after the Civil War, freedmen from slavery. They battled the drought and the grasshoppers, carved their first homes from the virgin sod, fought the long, lean winters and prairie fires and built a thriving farming, business and social community. Once Nicodemus township had a population of 700 to 800 persons, mostly Negroes with a few whites. A census last Spring put it at 131.

They established a community "of blackmen, by blackmen and for blackmen," and put behind them discrimination and racial tensions.

Today, discrimination is evident but some of the Negro farmers and their wives shrug it off, even put a part of the blame on themselves for not doing more to foster more community interest with the whites.

Others have deep-seated feelings and the day-to-day association with whites in routine activities, such as shopping, disturbs them. One young woman observed "my husband has tried hard to change me but I don't think I'll ever get over disliking whites." Her dislike was fostered by discrimination she found when working as a secretary in a big eastern city.

PROUD of their heritage and what their forebears accomplished, they are a part of the community but not a whole part, although they are not as confined as their city brothers.

A chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People came into being here a few years ago but it has died for lack of interest. They have faced bars against eating in nearby Hill City cafes and segregation in its movie theater until three years ago, when Kansas outlawed discrimination.

The community was named Nicodemus, not for the Biblical character but for the legendary Nicodemus who came to America on a slave ship and later purchased his liberty. Most of the early settlers here came from Kentucky and Tennessee and were tagged "Exoduster." Nicodemus is one of three Negro colonies established in Kansas and the only one remaining. The others were Dunlap in Neosho River Valley and Singleton in Cherokee County.

Oldtimers recall, as did the Rev. Joseph D. Wilson, age 79, the other day, that "things were better in the old days." Ironically, Hill City is named for W. D. Hill, a white man from Indiana and a land speculator who aided the Negroes in settling the area.

NO ONE KNOWS of any Negro being asked to join a service club, such as Rotary or Kiwanis. One breakthrough occurred recently when the Rev. Benjamin R. Stephens, the young pastor of the Baptist Church, was invited to join the county ministerial alliance.

Mrs. Marie White, 52, daughter and granddaughter of pioneers to this once-desolate country now rich in wheat, cattle and oil, tried to analyze the failure of a fully integrated community. "I guess we didn't try hard enough," she said.

She and her husband, Arthur W. White, 55, treasurer of the Nicodemus Township Board of Commissioners, an all - Negro body, have many white friends and they visit them in their homes but she says that "generally, there hasn't been any real relationship with whites for a long time."

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Bates echoed her analysis. Bates said that "when Nicodemus and Hill City changed, we just didn't try."

White townspeople admit that they didn't do anything to help lower the segregation bars although they said they resented the prohibitions against Negroes. "It often made me mad that I couldn't buy a Negro farmer a cup of coffee when he came to town to talk business," a farm official said recently.

Fort Scott

Fort Scott, Kan. Plans Big July Homecoming

WICHITA, Kan. — A big homecoming for all former residents will be held July 4 in Fort Scott, Kan., and all of the former local citizens who have strayed away from New York to California and from the Great Lakes to Mexico, have promised to return for the celebration.

50 Kan

Chief sponsors of the gigantic event are James H. Wilkerson and Booker T. Cummings who felt that a special day should be set aside for a renewal of acquaintances and a review of their activities away from home.

Local merchants, motel operators and other business persons are cooperating in supplying accommodations and needs for the expected visitors. The day's activities will be centered in Bridal Veil Park and at night a banquet will be held at the E. J. Hawkins Junior High school.

The latter event will be sponsored by Dr. A. L. Hawkins, Omaha, Neb., brother of the late E. J. Hawkins, who was principal of the school. A dance will climax the day's entertainment.

Towns and Settlements - 1933

Kentucky

LOUISVILLE, KY.
TIMES
AUG 10 1933

Meade County near Garrett
Breckinridge County
Ky.

FROM MILLS POINT TO THE BIG SANDY

PROSPEROUS NEGROES IN MEADE.

UP IN Meade County, near Garrett is a Negro settlement, where live several Negro families. They have their own church and school house, and together they own some 400 or 500 acres of land. "When someone asked "How come these colored folk to be there?" the question was answered to the effect that these are the offsprings of the early slaves in Kentucky, who maybe inherited land from their masters, and the land has been handed down from one generation to the other. The generation that lives there now, represents a high type of citizenship of the Negro race and they are much more desirable inhabitants than a lot of white people who are void of morals or any sense of pride. .

One of the best farmers in Breckinridge County is a Negro. Andy Board, living in the Webster community, has one of the best tilled farms in that section. His white neighbors all point to him with pride, because he is a good citizen. Decency and honesty always command respect whether it is in a white man, Negro or the Indian.—(Breckinridge News.

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LIFE LINES

Informer—Houston, Texas

By J. ANDREW GAULDEN

13

GRAMBLING— The TOWN WITH AN IDEA

7-22-44

There are 22 all-Negro towns in America. Twenty-two colored communities where some 30,000 Negroes have their own post offices, stores, pressing shops, banks, schools, and churches and where the colored man governs himself. And while this fact is little known to most Americans, the all-Negro town is one of the colorful features of the country and respected segment of our national life.

One of the most interesting all-colored towns in America is Grambling, nestled calmly and securely among the quiet forests and rolling sand hills of central north Louisiana a few miles west of Ruston. In a region where the races are usually found together any all-Negro town would automatically be novel and interesting, but Grambling makes its appeal with something besides singularity.

It is a town with a soul and spirit all its own. Your first time there, and no matter how long you stay, you are bathed in a never-ending atmosphere of warm friendship and hospitality. Not the staged hospitality which strains both the visitor and the visited, but an amazing natural and smooth good-fellowship unlike anything you've ever seen before. 7-22-44

ONE BIG HAPPY FAMILY

Grambling has its Adamses, Reeds, Moores, Richmonds, Garners, Levingstons, Woodards, Johnsons, Wilsons, Lands, Youngers, and Joneses, but these separate family names are mere formalities — they're all one family. If I've got chicken, you've got chicken. too. Just like that . . . no preaching about it, no ballyhoo about friendship and co-operation. . . it just is. This wide-spread esprit de corps . . .unbroken between the folks downtown and those beyond the Robinson woods. . . friendship without rank or regulation. . . this alone is noteworthy and most unusual, but strangely, Grambling has anchored itself securely in an entirely different manner.

7-22-44

It is a town with an idea — an idea which has given the town national prominence in educational circles, and an idea the influence of which is making itself felt in the mind and muscle of every country boy who plows a row of corn and every country girl who cooks a pot of peas. The farm folk, in other words, numbering around a million —and that's a lot of influence. Grambling wouldn't say that itself, but it is no secret that ramifi-

the South like shade from the green bay tree.

COMMON SENSE GOES TO COLLEGE

Grambling, you see, is the home of Louisiana Rural Normal, an institution operating on the rock-bottom principle that the best education for a people is the kind that prepares them for the kind of life they have to live. This common sense did not of course originate in Grambling— but applying it to Rural Education did. Grambling (it is one place where the town is school and the school is town— you say Grambling when you mean the town and when you mean the school) tried the idea and worked it. It is a rural college with a rural curriculum training rural teachers to teach rural people to live prosperously in rural areas. 7-22-44

A happy combination of the ideas of John Dewey, Booker T. Washington, and the Man with the Hoe, La. Rural Normal gave wings to a practical program of rural education, now a solid part of standard educational procedure all over the South, White and Negro. That the idea was cultivated in an all-Negro community at the hands of Negroes should make us all happy. Headed by Ralph W. E. Jones, a modest, jovial, practical, shirt-sleeve administrator, La. Normal maintains unadulturated respect in high educational quarters. When Mr. Jones shuts one eye and looks from his modern office out across the lovely horseshoe-shaped campus, his mind's eye is concerned with the welfare of the thousands of Negro farm folk in the region who can make a better life for themselves and for us all when the light of reason penetrates the dark corners where they must live. And he knows there is no sense in concentrating on Shakespeare and Plato when the pressing need is full stomachs, healthy bodies, and a roof over their heads. 7-22-44

Ralph Jones, Willie Garner, Alice Grundy Blalock, Ethel McGregor Garner, E. L. Cole, Allie M. Stephens, Fidelia Adams Johnson, and others— these are the "name" personalities at Grambling who took an idea by the horn and handled it with great dispatch.

CHARLES P. ADAMS, GRAND OLD MAN OF GRAMBLING

The saga of a town is usually the saga of personalities. Every community has its patriarch, its grand old man, whose breath was once the very breath of life for the settlement and whose footprints first man is Charles P. Adams. It was he who hacked away the underbrush, tromped the hills and valleys for funds, bought the ground and built the buildings, and gave Grambling its foundation . . . . at a time when education for the Negro was both a dangerous and backbreaking task. But for more than 30 years he stuck to it, courageously and undauntedly, giving Grambling momentum which has seen it through to this day.

"Chief" they call him, and chief he was, a giant of a man with measured steps, a deep rich voice, a forthright speaker — a typical pioneer educator of the kind it took when Negro education was brain and brawn. Today the Adams banner is still held high by the children, Fidelia, Edward H., Henry V., and Teresa, all prominent educators in their own right. 7-22-44

That's the kind of place Grambling is. . . a town with a warm spirit . . a town with a great idea . . a town with heroes, old and young. . . . and all Negroes. Negroes who have established an enviable record of good behavior — barely a major crime in all its history, a place where the Law never comes except to seek a responsible worker. Negroes who have good homes. . Negroes who live well. Grambling has not been content with simply letting down the bucket — it has succeeded in drawing up a cool, pleasing, respectable existence.

Grambling, La

50 1953

GRAMBLING, LOUISIANA

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Lt. Gov. Barham Installs Mayor Of All Negro Town

By Collie J. Nicholson

Grambling, La. (Special).—Mayor B. T. Woodard and other village officials of the all Negro town of Grambling were installed Monday night in impressive ceremonies held in the college auditorium.

Lt. Governor C. E. Barham called the event "a historic occasion for the state of Louisiana."

Approximately 2,000 persons jammed the auditorium to help celebrate what one speaker called "a milestone of accomplishments."

Included were Charles P. Adams, retired educator who founded Grambling college in 1901; Mayor T. C. Beasley of Ruston; Ross Neill, Lincoln Parish clerk of court; H. L. Campbell, former superintendent of Lincoln schools; the Rev. F. L. Lewis, bishop, Sixth Episcopal District, C. M. E. church; Representative L. D. Napper, and President R. W. E. Jones of Grambling college.

Bishop Lewis delivered the feature address.

Lt. Governor Barham gave the charge to the council and impressed upon members the necessity for honesty in all village endeavors.

The council was presented by Ross Neill who also administered the oath of office.

Music for the occasion was furnished by the Grambling college band and choir under the directions of Conrad Hutchinson and L. L. [illegible].

Officers installed in addition to Mayor Woodward were Sylvester Brown, Mike C. Osborne and W. E. Downs, aldermen; Earl Maxie, marshal and tax collector; W. L. Garner, clerk and treasurer, and E. T. Turner, street commissioner.

All officers were appointed by the governor.

One of the first major projects for the village will include securing natural gas, improving streets, extending city lights and drilling a deep well.

Plans are also being studied for inviting a major industry to the community.

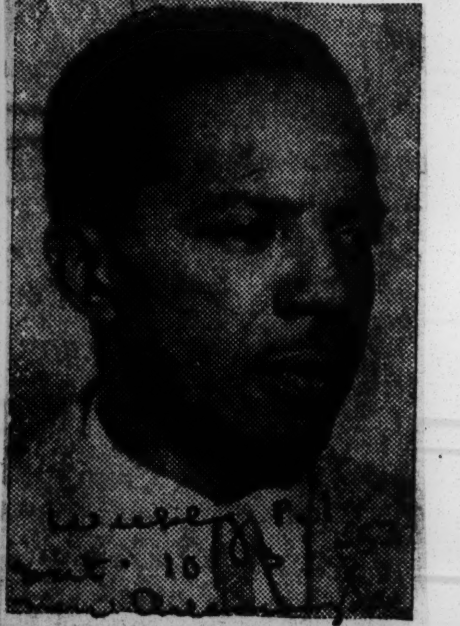
The 232nd municipality in the state, Grambling has a population of 675 residents and 1,759 college students.

Weekly

Sat. 10-31-53

Weekly

Sat.
10-31-53



B. T. Woodard, life-long resident of Grambling was installed as first mayor of the North Louisiana town during impressive ceremonies Monday night. The all-Negro town has a population of 675 townspeople and 1,759 students.—(Moss Photo.)

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Start New Colored Settlement

WASHINGTON—(ANP)—Another Negro settlement, Eagle Harbor, Md., has been incorporated and at a meeting last Saturday, plans for improving the property and making it one of the most attractive summer colonies in the east were discussed. This was the first meeting since the election recently held at the residence of Commissioner John T. Stewart. The present board of commissioners includes John T. Stewart, the Rev. C. T. Murray, pastor of Vermont Avenue Baptist church; Benjamin F. Branson, Joseph L. Galloway, L. Naylor Fitzhugh and Bessie B. Anderson.

SEP 22 1941

Eagle Harbor, Md.

Towns and Settlements - 1935.

Maryland

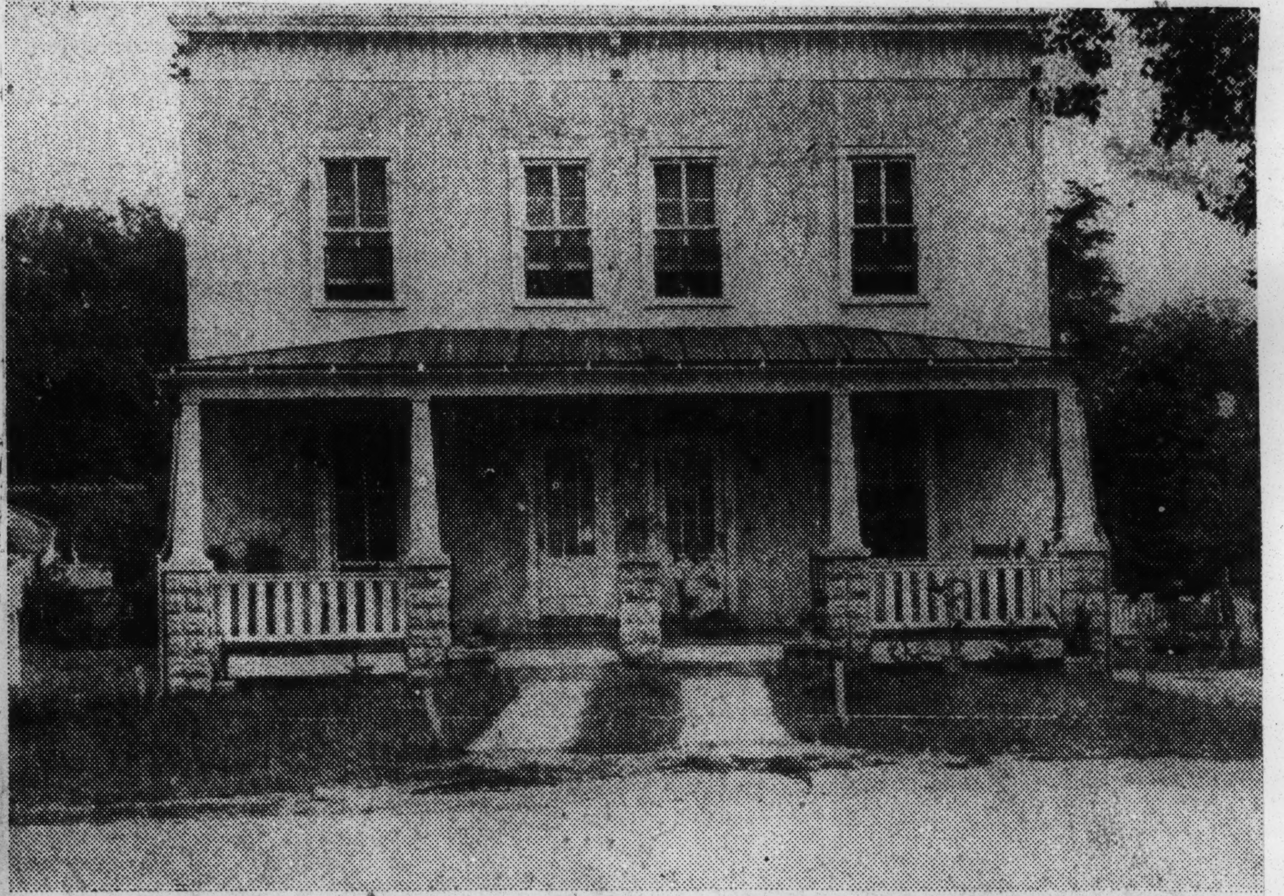
140

Mayor's Daughter and Town Cop

Afro-American 9-28-35

Left, Miss Doris Nichols, daughter of Robert Nichols, recently elected mayor of Fairmount Heights, Md. She is a junior at Howard U. Right, Steven Butler, the town cop at the incorporated village just across the District of Columbia line.

Rev



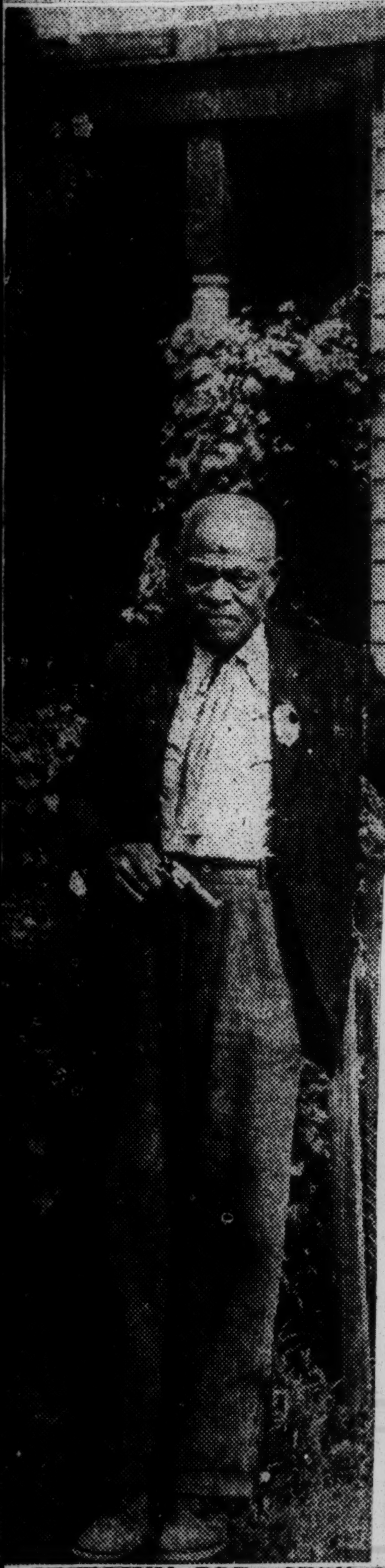
MAYOR'S HOME—This photo shows the home of the Rev. George Lucas, newly elected mayor of North Brentwood, which is located in Maryland just across the District of Columbia line. Sitting on the porch is Mrs. Lucas. The Rev. Mr. Lucas is an employee of the United States Department of Agriculture. His address is 101 Rhode Island Avenue, which continues into D. C.

Afro-American 9-21-35 [illegible]

Rev

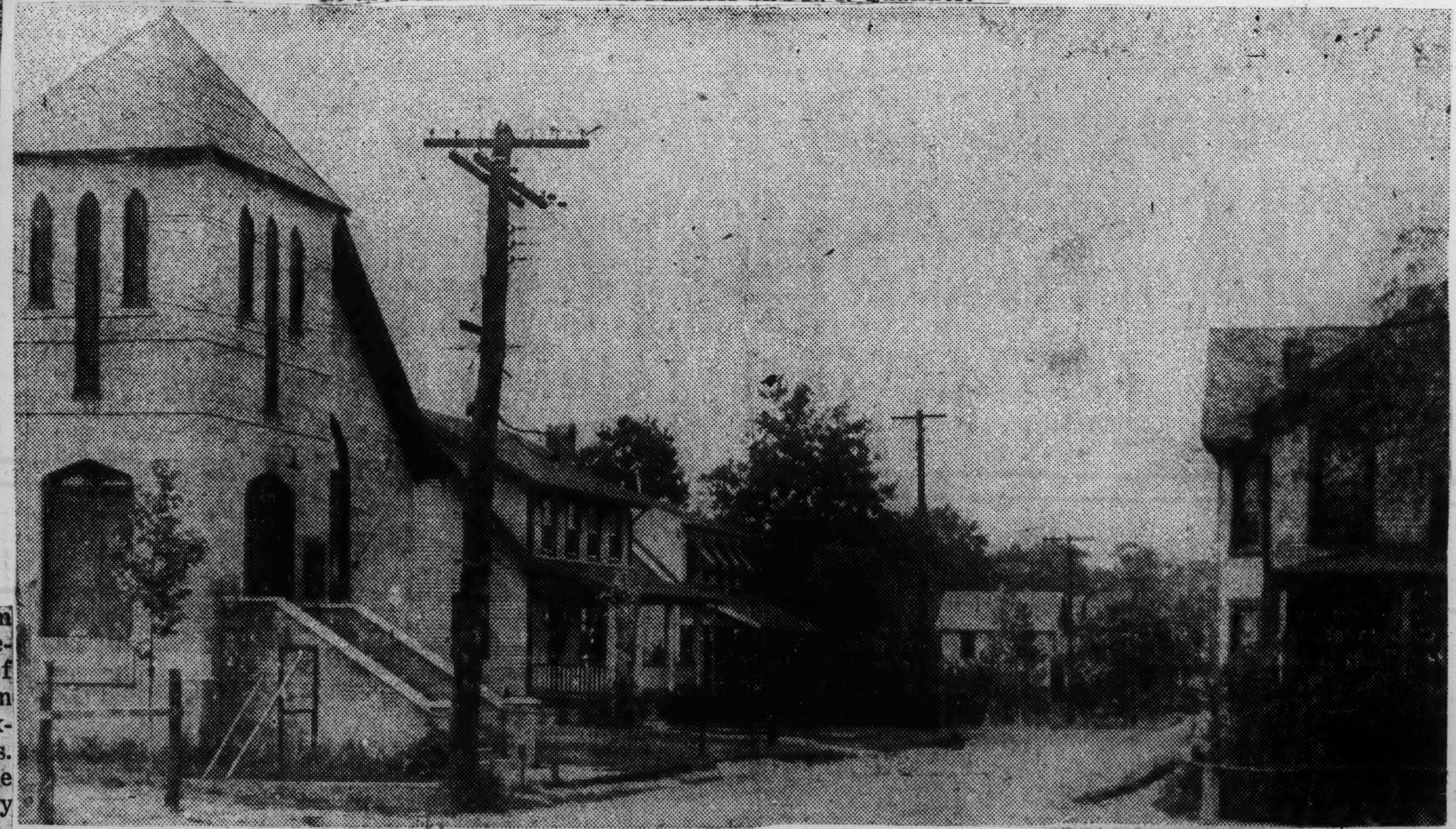
Fairmount Heights, Md

Scenes in the Little City of North Brentwood, Md., Which Is Owned and Operated by Its Residents



HE TOWN COP—William Ingram, one of two policemen and health officers of this little incorporated town with a population of approximately 900 residents. Officer Ingram's wife is the town clerk and a notary public.

NORTH BRENTWOOD STREET—Photo shows view of John Street, one of the main thoroughfares. At left is the Brentwood A.M.E. Zion Church of which the Rev. W. R. Jones is pastor. The two houses next to the church are the residences of Eugene Butler and R. I. Quander.



Towns and Settlements-1937

Maryland

156

Three Mayors and One ex-Mayor of Maryland Towns

Afro-American 9-7-37

Baltimore, Md.

Three mayors and one ex-mayor held the spotlight at the inaugural banquet marking the birth of a new administration for the town of Fairmont Heights, Md., at the Fairmont Elks' Home, Monday night. Shown above, left to right, are: newly-elected Mayor Ulysses S. Mackall of Fairmont Heights, Robert S. Nichols, ex-mayor of the town; the Rev. George W. M. Lucas, mayor of North Brentwood, Md.; Haley S. Douglass, mayor of Highland Beach, Md. Mayor John T. Stewart of Eagle Harbor, Md., did not show up.

All-Colored Town Celebrates Second Year of Founding

Nashville Globe 9-13-37

Nashville, Tenn.

Fairmount Heights, Md., Aug. (ANP)—More than 500 townsfolk headed by the local Citizens' Association, participated last Friday in this all-colored town's second anniversary celebration and banquet, held at the Elks' Home. The committee on arrangements was headed by Miss Mary M. J. Hawkins, and among the speakers were Benjamin Montgomery, nephew of the founder of Mound Bayou, Miss.; former Mayor W. M. Lucas of North Brentwood; D. E. Brooks, president Citizens' Association; and Judge George Palmer. Dancing followed the banquet.

Mayor and Officers of Fairmount Heights, Md

Councilman James F. Armstrong

Tribune 9-25-37

Washington, D.C.

Living in a cottage at 1004 Fairmount Avenue, Fairmount, Md., is a man who for 31 years has watched the growth of his town and who now is a prominent figure in its affairs.

At 67 years of age James F. Armstrong is proud to say that he is a part of the organization that is guiding the destinies of the "coming Negro town of America," Fairmount Heights, Md.

Mr. Armstrong now holds the position of chairman of the street lighting and road committee. He is also a member of the executive committee of the citizens association.

He lives with his wife, Mrs. Ada L. Armstrong, and five "romping" children whom he hopes will someday become a cog in the wheel of Fairmount Heights."

The councilman said he remembers when the all colored town didn't have but six houses, but "I've seen it grow up to a swell community."

Mr. Armstrong is at present trustee of the Grace M. E. Church in the town and has been an active member since it was established in 1909. The Sunday school of the church was organized in the study of his home 28 years ago, he says.

He holds the position of worthy patron of the local Eastern Star Lodge.

He is also past exalted ruler of the W. Bruce Evans Elks' Lodge of Fairmount Heights, and a member of the Charles Datcher Lodge of Masons.

Mr. Armstrong also heads the 4-H club of the colored township, of which organization he has had charge in Southern Maryland.

He is employed at the extension department of the University of Maryland, Cottage Parks, Md.

JAMES F. ARMSTRONG

Mayor and Officers of North Brentwood, Md.

Tribune 10-23-37

Washington, D.C.

(Editor's Note—This is the first of a series of articles on North Brentwood, Md., one of the three nearby colored incorporated towns. The series will include sketches of the lives of the mayor and members of the council. A similar series on Fairmount Heights was completed last week.)

Tribunes are on sale by the following persons in the community: Oliver Ramsom, 214 Banner Road; Hervert Bullock, 326 Highland Avenue, Hyattsville, Md.; Albert Redd, St. Mary's Street.

A 67-year-old man, who doesn't look his age, is the "biggest shot" in the all-colored town of North Brentwood, Md. He is Mayor Sandy Palmer Baker and he has held that position since his election in July.

The town was formerly affiliated with Brentwood, Md., until the year 1923 when Jeremiah Hawkins who was a resident there, got the idea to make what then was a colored section of the town a separate and distinct township.

He had the dream of the organizers of Fairmount Heights and Highland Beach. He worked with those ideas in mind and was proud to have been elected the first mayor of the all-colored community. The town was incorporated as North Brentwood, Md., which divides it from Brentwood, Md., is one and a half miles wide and nearly two miles long.

Among the first officers of the town were Mrs. Elizabeth Norton, who held the position of town clerk; Julius Wheeler, Madison Brown and Peter Randal who were among the first councilmen.

John Gilmore was the first town treasurer and William I. Blake, the first twon attorney. Blake still holds that position.

The town has three police officers. The chief of police is Robert Arnold, who is also a member of the council board. J. W. Conway is justice of the peace.

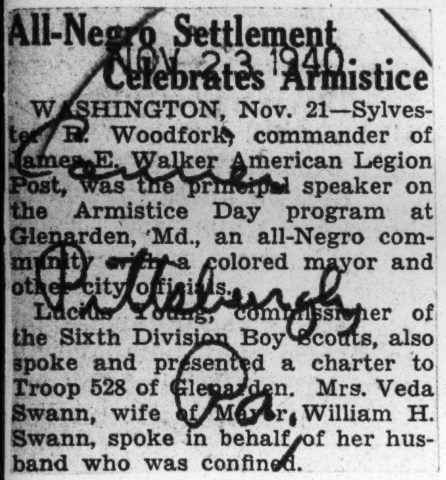
North Brentwood boasts of a crack volunteer fire department. It consists of a fire truck and 100 feet of hose. There is one school house of four rooms and four teachers. The school comes under the supervision of Prince George's County, Md.

The city takes care of the street lighting. There are three colored grocery stores, three taverns, and two churches.

Mrs. Addie Baker, wife of the mayor, is active in civic affairs.

Mr. and Mrs. Baker have three children. They live at 110 Ivy Street, North Brentwood.

MAYOR SANDY P. BAKER



All-Negro Settlement Celebrates Armistice

NOV 23 1940

Courier

Pittsburgh, Pa.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 21—Sylvester R. Woodfork, commander of James E. Walker American Legion Post, was the principal speaker on the Armistice Day program at Glenarden, Md., an all-Negro community with a colored mayor and other city officials.

Lucius Young, commissioner of the Sixth Division Boy Scouts, also spoke and presented a charter to Troop 528 of Glenarden. Mrs. Veda Swann, wife of Mayor William H. Swann, spoke in behalf of her husband who was confined.

Glenarden, Md:

all Negro Community

All-Negro Town In 25th Birthday Celebration

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Ill.
Sat. 5-31-47
(54)

GLEN ARDEN, Md.—The 25th anniversary of St. Joseph's parish, located in this all-Negro Incorporated Town, was commemorated here when Bishop Lawrence J. Shehan, auxiliary of Baltimore and of Washington, celebrated a Solemn Pontifical Mass at the parish church.

Msgr. John J. Reilly, director of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception at the Catholic University of America, preached the sermon, and St. Joseph's pastor, Fr. Chester C. Ball, SSJ, one of the 29 Negro priests in the United States, led the parish senior choir in singing the Mass. Rev. Father Alexander Leeder, SJD, also a Negro priest, was deacon of honor to Bishop Shehan.

Situated about three and one-half miles from the nation's capital, the parish covers an area of eight miles, extending from Seat Pleasant, Md., to Vista, Md. It includes the towns of Huntsville, East Columbia Park, McCarthy and Ardmore, and at present numbers more than 500 parishoners.

50 1949

Glenarden, MARYLAND

Glenarden to Mark 10th Year of Incorporation

Afro American

Sat. 10-22-49

39 Years Ago, Now Boasts of 1000 Residents Community Which Had Population of Only 15

The all-colored town of Glenarden, Md., which when surveyed 39 years ago was found to have a population of some 15 persons, on Saturday, will celebrate its 10th anniversary as an incorporated town, with a population of approximately 1000.

Glenarden is located in Prince Georges County, about 4 miles beyond the District line. It is composed of the sub-divisions of Glenarden Heights and Glenarden.

In 1906 this property was mostly farming land. In 1910, W. R. Smith purchased the property and the plats of Glenarden Heights and Glenarden were surveyed and recorded in the land records of Prince Georges County.

The records show that the Brown family was the first colored family to reside in Glenarden.

Most Residents Professionals

The majority of the present population of Glenarden are property owners. Most of the citizens of Glenarden are employed by the Government, commerce and other professions.

After the town began to grow, the citizens felt in need of some kind of an organization to encourage and foster community pride and ambition. This need was met by the organization of the Glenarden civic association, the first president of which was W. H. Swann.

The civic association, under the direction of Mr. Swann, felt the urge to become a self-governing community. Intersive efforts were put forth to have the town incorporated as a self-governing community.

Spurred Legislative Action

As a result of these efforts there was presented to the House of Delegates of the Maryland State Legislature House Bill No. 851, entitled "An Act To Incorporate the Town of Glenarden."

This bill was reported favorably by the committee on March 30, 1939, and the charter was subsequently granted making Glenarden the third incorporated all-colored town in the State of Maryland; the other two towns being Fairmount Heights and North Brentwood.

The first election for town officials was held on the first Monday in May, 1939. As a result of this election W. H. Swann was elected the first mayor.

Official Family Listed

The following persons comprised the official family of the town:

Council Board — Mrs. Theresa Banks, William C. Johnson, the Rev. Loins Hall and Norman Butler; treasurer — Robert Hawkins; town clerk—Louis Davis; Police Department — James R. Cousins Jr., chief; Lawrence Henson, James Jackson. Louis Chase, and J. D. Tellis, policeman.

Those who have served as town councilmen since the incorporation of the town are Mrs. Alice Morton Rice, W. B. Clark, William W. Smith, Robert Hawkins and Alfred Perkins.

Civic Improvements Made

Under the first administration rapid strides were made. Gas and electricity were provided and better roads were constructed.

Because of the quiet and refined atmosphere of the community and because of its proximity to Washington, the population has continued to show an increase.

Mr. Swann served as mayor for two years. He was succeeded in office by James R. Cousins, who was elected mayor in 1941, after having been president of the Glenarden Citizens' Association for two years.

In 1943, Mayor Cousins, with the support of Councilmen Robert Hawkins, W. B. Clark, William C. Johnson and William W. Smith, decided that the town needed a hall.

The town bought tax sale lots in Block (C) Glenarden; and Councilman Robert Hawkins and his wife, Mrs. Sarah Hawkins, who owned property in the Glenarden Circle near the George Palmer Hwy., traded that property so that the Town Hall could be erected near the highway.

The more accessible plot would also assist the town in borrowing the necessary money to help construct the hall, if it were needed.

Women's Effort Helpful

During the same time Mrs. Hawkins organized a group of women, known as the Town Hall Club and raised the first $1800, toward the construction of the hall.

Under Mayor Cousins's administration a Town Hall was at length erected costing more than $8,000.

Catholic, Baptist Churches

The religious life of the community is administered by Baptist and the Catholic churches. The first Baptist church was founded 26 years ago by the Rev. L. A. Patterson.

The present Baptist minister is the Rev. T. J. Houston who not only is a minister but is a recent law school graduate, who takes an active part in the social and civic affairs of the community.

St. Joseph Catholic Church was established in 1924. The church's pastor is Father Ball, one of the few colored priests in the United States. The church exerts a healthy and wholesome influence in shaping the community.

The present administration was elected in May, 1949, for a term of two years. The present officials are:

James R. Cousins Jr., mayor; Council Board—Roland Brownlee, Leroy Hillman, Thomas Davis and Clarence Johnson; Police Department—William T. Eskridge, chief; Daniel E. Thompson, Lieutentant; Miss Mary E. Sherman, clerk; Thomas Davis, sergeant; Leroy Hillman, private;

Fire Department — Charles R. Scott, chief; and Norman Butler, fire marshall; auditor—the Rev. Thomas J. Houston; town clerk, Mrs. Lillian Norris; deputy clerk, Mrs. Estelle Harris; treasurer — Mrs. Rosa P. Clark; deputy treasurer, Robert Hawkins; reporter—Mrs. Alice Morton Rice; assistant reporter, Mrs. Martha Gilmore; and business manager, Mr. Hawkins.

Heads of departments are Mrs. Ethel E. Cousins, Welfare; and Frank Kenner, public works, and building inspector.

Mrs. Muriel Brownlee is president of the P-TA; and Robert Rice is health inspector. Mrs. Sarah Hawkins is president of the Town Hall Club. Robert Brooks, attorney is corporation counsel.

Mayor Bares Plans

The plans of Mayor Cousins and the Town Council are to have water mains installed in Glenarden for a sewage system, elementary school to be constructed within the town, more street lights and better roads.

They also aim for a more efficient Police Department, with a scout car; hope to construct a Memorial Honor Roll for all World War II veterans of the town; and are planning to pay off the debt on Town Hall as soon as possible.

New homes are being constructed throughout the town, which will greatly increase its population.

Visitors from Washington and other nearby communities are expected in Glenarden on Saturday, when the town will celebrate its 10th anniversary as an incorporated town with appropriate ceremonies.

Mayor and Wife Join in Town Anniversary

Afro American
Date 11-4-50
Baltimore, Md.

50 50

The Hon. James R. Cousins Jr. and his wife, Mrs. Ethel Cousins, of Glenarden, Md., joined other town officials and citizens last week in observing the community's eleventh anniversary. When Glenarden became incorporated in 1939, it became the third incorporated all-colored town in the State of Marvland.

Towns and Settlement — 1922. Maryland.

Highland Beach Is First Colord Town Incorporated In State of Maryland

Baltimore Afro American 5/19/22

Annapolis, Md., May 18—Highland Beach, the popular summer colony on Chesapeake enjoys the distinction of being the first community of colored citizens to be given a charter by the state of Maryland, making it an incorporated town with a commission form of government.

Mrs. Eula Ross Gray, Dr. Milton A. Francis, Messrs. Osborn Taylor, Edwin B. Henderson and Haley G. Douglass, the first set of commissioners were sworn in at Annapolis Saturday, May 13th, 1922.

Towns and Settlements - 1927

~~Virginia~~ Md -

72

Highland Beach

LOUIS R. LAUTIER PAYS A VISIT TO HIGHLAND BEACH

By Louis R. Lautier Md

HIGHLAND BEACH, Va., Labor nay.—Well, here we are—three of the U street proletriat—a young physician, an electrician and a reporter: Dr. John Q. Nicholas, Fred Pelham and I.

The day was delightfully spent. Perry W. Howard, Republican national committeeman for Misssisippi, was our host. We were given a hearty welcome. We had been told that a warm reception awaited us.

9-9-27

We were first given a sight-seeing trip over the town. The show places were pointed out to us, the palatial cottages of Thomas Williams of Philadelphia and Dr. T. J. Wharton of Altoona, Pa., and the cottage built by Frederick Douglass forty years ago, in which his grandson, Joseph Douglass, the violinist, now lives.

The remainder of the day was spent on Chesapeake Bay in the Howard launch. In the distance from Highland Beach were two battleships, the Nevada and the Oklahoma, lying at anchor. We took a ride out ot them and went aboard the Oklahoma. In the party were Mortimer M. Harris, Joseph T. Settle, Charles H. Flagg, the three of us, and Mr. Howard, our host.

Dinner was served at the Howards' cottage, which faces the Chesapeake. Before dinner Dr. John Washington came over and chatted. After dinner we were joined by Mrs. Estelle Coffey Carr and Charles E. Hall. In the morning Mrs. Carr had driven Robert S. Abbott, editor of the Chicago Defender, to the resort and back to Washington in time to catch a 3 o'clock train for Chicago.

Other visitors seen at the beach included Mrs. Mortimer M. Harris, Miss Caroline Harris, Mrs. Joseph T. Settle, Arthur G. Froe, Charles E. Mitchell of Institute, W. Va., Dr. and Mrs. Charles I. Wilder, Dr. Hugh Simmons, Miss Ethel Alexander, Miss Hallie E. Queen, Mrs. Joseph Murray and Mr. and Mrs. John R. Wright.

Towns and Settlements - 1928

Maryland.

Highland Beach

HIGHLAND BEACH TO REFORM CIVIC ASS'N

At a mass meeting held last Sunday at the residence of Thomas Williams, one of the commissioners of Highland Beach, measures looking toward the reorganization of their citizens' association were adopted by the residents of the village.

It was decided that the organization should resume its former title of "Highland Beach Citizens' Association," which was discarded several years ago in favor of the more comprehensive one of "Highland Beach and Vicinity Citizens' Association." It was explained that this step was desirable because Venice Beach, the community which adjoins Highland Beach on the south but which is outside of the corporate limits of Highland Beach, had perfected its own civic organization, known as the "Venice Beach Community Association." Heretofore, both communities have participated in the consideration of such matters as good roads, public order, sanitary measures, etc.

Another innovation of the reorganization plan was the selection of an executive committee of the association to advise and co-operate with the town commissioners, with a view to keeping the latter informed as to the collective state of mind of the residents, as expressed through the association.

The following officers were unanimously elected: Mrs. Mary Church Terrell, president; M. Grant Lucas, vice-president; Mrs. Eula R. Grey, secretary; and Mrs. Osborn T. Taylor, treasurer.

Towns and Settlements-1929

Maryland.

HIGHLAND BEACH

A Paradoxical Community

By EULA G. BROWN

Two Communities Exist Side by Side, Composed of People of Identical Social Standing, Yet They Fail to Unite for Mutual Protection

15-FOOT ROADWAY CAUSES TROUBLE

Highland Beach Community Association After Accepting Aid From Venice Beachers, Changes Its Constitution So They Can Be Excluded

(EDITOR'S NOTE.—This question of government of Negro communities is attracting much attention. Recent incorporation of Fairmount and Eagle Harbor shows the trend. Segregation of our people in crowded districts, collecting their taxes, leaving them without improvements and means of social control is throwing the burden of government upon them. The church is falling down as a control element. Negroes must develop community sense and not be torn apart through personal bickerings and suggestion of demagogues. These questions being worked out in Highland Beach show us how intelligent Negroes are working out their problems, and should serve as a guide to the groups of Negroes contemplating representative self-government in the communities already towns or anticipating incorporation.)

TYPICAL SCENES IN VENICE BEACH.—*Photo by Scurlock*

PART II.

Venice Beach a Separate Community

Why is there so much scrap between the two beaches, Venice Beach an dHighland Beach? One of the anomalities the writer has found in getting her information about the town is the existence of two communities side by side, alike in every physical feature and composed of people of identical social standing, yet failing to unite for mutual protection and solution of common difficulties. Highland Beach and Venice Beach, one plot of 26 acres and the other of 13 acres, were owned in April, 1893, by Joseph Douglass and Georgiana Lane. They, after a short time, agreed to divide. After the death of Georgiana, the taxes mounted high, were offered for sale and bought, along with an option to buy the land, by one Jesse Moorland. Moorland later moved away and sold his holdings in Highland Beach and his option to Mr. Osborn T. Taylor, a retired government clerk. Mr. Taylor arranged to buy the tract, surveyed and subdivided and at this time virtually sold all the lots. He named his sub-division Venice Beach because of the wonderful view of the Bay and lovely Oyster Lake that bounds the length of the beautiful subdivision. His lots were purchased by a most thrifty and educated class. Among the owners are Perry Howard, Mortimer Harris, Taylor's daughters, Dwight Holmes, Messrs. Nixon, Milton, Syphax, Tolson, Weir, Chambers, Mimms, Miller Ridgely Goins and a number of others of similar calibre.

Beautiful Homes Built

Homes sprang up and along the central avenue, and extremely well kept lawns were made to exist. Communication by travel between Highland Beach and Venice Beach was had by paths over numerous vacant lots, and the road leading into Highland Beach ran right through Venice Beach and across the lot of Mrs. Burroughs. Later residents resented the indiscriminate making of paths and trepassing. According to Taylor, he and Douglass entered agreement to open up a 15-foot lane by sacrificing the width of lots in order to make a street between Highland and Venice Beaches in the middle sector of the towns. This made three ways to travel, one at the entrance, one at the Beach, and one just described.

Citizens Up In Arms

Recently Venice Beach citizens have been up in arms against Mayor Douglass of Highland Beach. Certain citizens allege that Douglass has sought to stigmatize them as undesirable. That his erection of a barbed wire fence was a gratuitous insult to their intelligence and pride. One resident predicted the next attempt will be a set of barbed wire entanglements, machine gunners and entrenchments on the Highland Beach frontier. Another prominent citizen of Venice Beach of National fame, said an emplyoee of Douglass, claimed to have been instructed to fence off not alone the beach but the road leading to his house from Highland Beach. At the entrance to the town, Mr. Taylor claims the Highland Beach people have to cross the road on his property at the entrance to get into Highland Beach.

Roadway Fight Starts

Then trouble started. The commissioners of Highland Beach evidently believe the town incorporated by the state in the name of the citizens through their commissioners, belong to Douglass for they took no steps to keep him from setting posts and erecting two large timbers for a gateway across the road. This was done to show exclusiveness and ownership. The resident who bought from Douglass the 35-foot lot, from which the 15-foot lane had been carved prior to his purchase, desired this fifteen feet for a porch and complained of the travel by his home. It is alleged by Taylor, an attempt was made to sell this street by Douglass, who claimed it was his property. A committee of Venice Beachers went to the courthouse and observed the new plat of Highland Beach made by Douglass on which he had recorded this pass way. Taylor then warned the resident that although he might purchase, any attempt to prevent use of the street for travel would bring legal action since he had sacrificed parts of two lots in agreement with Douglass to make this lane. The resident refused to buy, whereupon Douglass had planted a post in the middle of the street, which was promptly removed. Other efforts have recently been made by Douglass to close the street to vehicular traffic under the claim that he meant its use to be only as a walk-way. The commissioners washed their hands of this and say that it is not their affair, but an affair of Douglass'.

Open warfare began last winter when Douglass threatened to show Taylor that he had power to close these lanes, streets, etc.

Barbed Wire Fence Erected

On July 4, the visitors on the Beach were more than surprised to see a barbed wire fence running across the beach into the Bay on the boundary line. The entire excitement of the day was talk of the fence. On the night of July 4, wire cutting implements, post removers, and presumely citizens of Venice Beach exercised the independence day spirit and like the compatriots of 1776, cut in small pieces the wire, piled up the posts and capped off their work by a sign "K. K. K."

Later the same white men doing the work on the beach fence attempted to fence in a lot of an owner over which Venice Beach and Highland Beach people were accustomed to travel. Colored labor about the town refused to engage in the work. Hotelkeeper Ware became so enraged that he joined in the battle against Douglass, whom he claimed was doing this in persecution of him. The posts were hauled to this lot and lated hauled away.

Preventing Intrusion

According to newspaper articles, Douglass insisted that he was only trying to solve the problem of protecting the Highland Beach people from intrusion by picnic parties nd strangers who entered Highland Beach by way of Venice Beach. The commissioners of the town who are elected to govern the town deny that they sympathize with Douglass or that they have any power to interfere with these attempts. Picnic parties and control of visitors is evidently to them the business of Douglass as private owner although he is chairman of the commission board. Citizens of Venice Beach deny these excuses. They state that these are not facts. They have only one street leading to their beach and no parking is allowed, and their beach is denied to picnickers. It is their claim that there is a studied effort on the part of a small but influential bunch in Highland Beach to consider them of inferior mold. Some say the entire issue was raised when a small piece of ground, 15 x 150 feet, was not allowed to become pocket change for Douglass. Taylor says that he gave up the part of the price of two lots to open this lane for the convenience of people of the two communities and that his citizens are behind him and so are most of the Highland Beach citizens in this attempt to prevent the sale of a platted and thereby, public roadway or walkway as it may be termed.

Solution in Merging

The only solution to this question is that of incorporation of the two resorts as one. The benefits will be mutual. Any water system, sewerage, lighting, telephone fire protection, police control, and social welfare will be fostered by a breaking down of the attitude or power of a foolish little clique. The citizens of Highland Beach are far too intelligent and too cultured to do anything else but insist that their representatives of some years elecion take steps to encourage joint incorporation. The post office of Highland Beach receives part of its importance due to Venice Beach mail. A committee consisting of Messrs. Nixon, Syphax and Taylor, of Venice Beach, has been selected to consider incorporaiton with Highland Beach. Actually but two people have been active in stirring up sentiment within Highland Beach that has kept the community sense apathetic on this and other civic interests. The pride of the two families in the development of the place and the maintenance of traditional names is but a feeble reason for failure to recognize that the plot of ground containing both communities and bounded by two lakes and the bay and inhabited by a social entity should be under one government, a united community. There should be no imaginary line of cleavage, and the common sense in the town now lulled into apathy by a few willful men and women should soon emerge and assert itself when it finds how puerile are the influences that keep these two communities separate.

Venice Beachers Excluded

Two years ago a community association comprised citizens of Venice Beach and Highland Beach and jointly they worked for mutual interests. Last year, the Highland Beach Citizens' Association changed its constitution to limit membership to citizens of Highland Beach, although the people of Venice Beach have contributed much money to the roads jointly used and to the $500 fund collected for building a pavillion on the beach of either Highland or Venice Beach. No effort has been made to return to Venice Beach any proportion of this sum.

The attempt of the commissioners of several years ago to effect a union of the two Beaches to meet the many perplexing situations that are bound to arise and be of mutual concern came to naught when back door logic coupled with falsehoods aroused unfavorable sentiment. They, however, left the thought to the people and predicted its eventuality when the intelligence of the people becomes active. In all of this there is the proverbial hidden cause. When will it be ferreted out? When will the unselfish community sense be awakened? Some say colored people are yet too good Christians to strive over the temporal things of Caesar's.

(Continued next week)

New Negro Town's Commissioners Mee

7

Fairmount Heights, Md. — Th town commissioners of Fairmoun Heights, Md. met last week at the office of the Fairmount Heights Investment Co. The following activities were assigned to the severa commissioners by the chairman; ordinances, Robert Balmer and Harry Goodrich; law and order, Ulyses Mackall; building and sanitation Isaiah Miles; roads and lighting Charles Hawkirs.

The time of meeting of the commissioners was changed by unanimous vote from the second Tuesday to the second Wednesday of eac month.

Towns and Settlements - 1929

Maryland

HIGHLAND BEACH

A Paradoxical Community

By EULA G. BROWN

mall Clique Said To Be Behind Opposition To Hotel. Residents on "Main Street" Say They Are Annoyed By Crowds

FOUNDER URGED HOTEL BUILDING

Social Status of One of the Hotel Owners Quiets Opposition To Her Place. Hotels Are Willing To Co-operate With Commissioners

Washington Tribune
Sept 27
Washington D C

EDITOR'S NOTE.—A summary of attempts to embarrass Ware's Hotel this season is as follows: First, Mayor Douglass acted as agent for an owner to fence off a lot that hotel guests had been accustomed to park cars upon. Second, Mayor Douglass submitted to the commissioners ordinances, one of which aimed at the prevention of the parking of cars on streets except by permission of residents; others sought to require hotel licenses and the prevention of music and dancing after midnight. Third, two citizens acting as "stool pigeons" informed Annapolis authorities that liquor was being sold at Ware's, which was disproved. Fourth, in the past week, a health inspector from Baltimore came over upon the superstitious insistence of a town official who claimed Ware was not meeting sanitary laws of the State. The inspector gave Ware a clean slate and was extremely angry for being sent out on what was termed a "spite" job.

Ware stated after the last attack, that every knock was proving a boost, as requests for accommodations are not falling off.

Fifth, some news writer from the Beach reported that the residents of the exclusive town kept within their homes when the hotel guests were abroad. This has incensed many of the residents who spent the day on the beach in company with hotel guests.

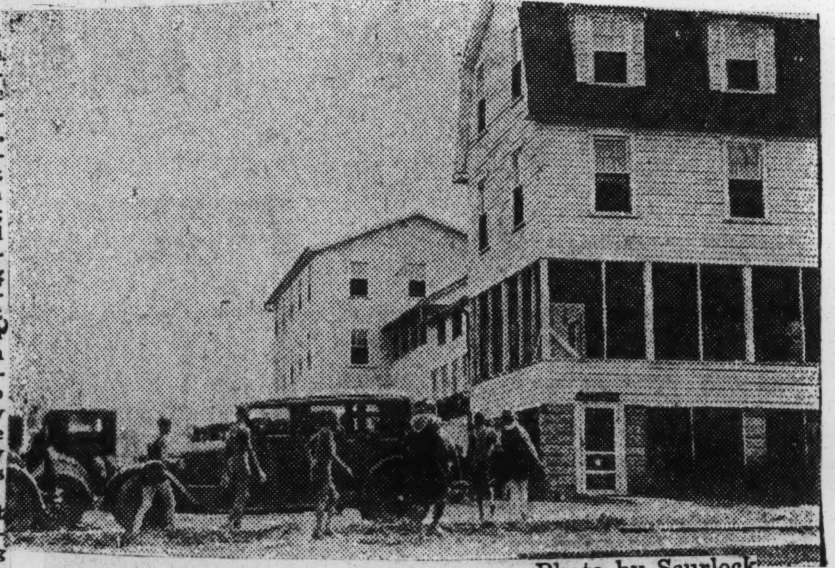


Photo by Scurlock

WARE'S HOTEL, HIGHLAND BEACH, MD.

PART III.

An active group of less than one-half dozen residents has worked steadily to get rid of the hotels at Highland Beach, Md. First, they would run out Ware, then Flagg. Why are they so bitter against the hotels? Is it personal feeling? Are the hotels public nuisances?

Only Half Dozen Complain

From what the writer can learn, opposition to the hotels comes from less than one-half dozen property owners. Complaints from members of this group repeatedly flow to county authorities. Almost none work in the open. Back porch and card table gossip with its usual run of misstatements are the breeding sources of dissatisfaction. One item of fact grows by gossip to a mountain of news.

By leaving out the personal animosities that Ware has made in his fight to live, the only outstanding objectional fact is stated to be that the Sunday crowds rob cottagers of privacy and bring in objectional strangers to the town. An article published a few weeks ago stated that gambling and drinking in the open was going on at one of the hotels and endangering the morals of the children. Publication of the offense led to its correction. Late night dancing parties have been referred to, but these at the hotels were not so much objected to as some of the soire'es given by the young people at their homes. Liquor, it is charged, has been drunk at the hotel. The writer hears that some of the private citizens also drink in their homes. No drunks have appeared in public. Then what hotel keeper can keep a guest from B. H. O. L.?

Main St. Residents Annoyed

Now, the facts seem to be these. A few residents live on Main street and say that they are annoyed by the great numbers of people and cars passing. They report no disorderly conduct. Had they previously suspected that the place was going to develop as it has they would not have bought where they did, yet no one has sold or offered for sale. Seldom do more than 300 people visit the hotels on Sunday. Dinner is practically the only meal served. The automobiles have gone before sun-down, and for the balance of the week the town settles down to normal quiet. One leader of the mal-contents has been on the war-path in fomenting trouble for Ware's Hotel ever since Ware's 55-room edifice spread skyward, fore and aft, and forever hid most of this man's view of the beautiful Chesapeake Bay. Another is his kinsman—hence shares his woe. Another leading opponent feels that if any money is to be made in the place, he is the only one to make it. His wrath is incurred whenever anyone else enlists in a money-making enterprise. One other worker in this group is an ambitious social leader in the town who spreads the views of the other members of the cabal.

Hotels Are Desirable

Are the hotels desirable? The people for many years have considered them so, especially do they who own lots, but have not builded, and who like to visit the town. Shortly after Major Douglass and his wife built, they advertised for visitors, solicited excursions, picnics, built a bath-house for the public, and opened a boarding house that served all comers. Then the Major begged Bowen of Baltimore, a successful caterer, to help him meet the need of the hungry visitors to whom Major Douglass sought to sell lots.

Bowen's hotel would sometimes have so many guests that many would have to sleep in the neighboring barn. Bowen finally retired and later died. Major Douglass then sought out Richard Ware, a shoe merchant in Washington, and urged him to open a hotel. Ware did so. His social standing, his big ideas, and his expanding building caused the friction mentioned above. Then came Annazine Flagg, the popular hostess of a Washington hostelry. As a member of a prominent family, and of assured social status, Mrs. Flagg took over the Bowen House, renovated it, and attracted much of the elite of Washington, although Ware's guests numbered among them social celebrities and sound folk. The society group at Flaggs looked for social thrills in addition to the much referred to peace and quiet of the little town. A few stunts set some of the staid town folks agog, but they were soon soothed by the group fighting Ware. So we find the growth of the town running side by side with hotel extension.

Hotels Willing to Co-operate

What is the future of the hotels? Ask the queqstion of Atlantic City and other resorts. If Douglass could recall hisdeeds, he might do it. He might in the next set of deeds set out restrictions that would have barred anybody from making money but himself. If Ware and Flagg have to put up a flag and sell out, some philanthropic and enterprising white Wichtman or black Smith would come in and give the good old settlement a real up-to-date hotel. Ware and Flagg are creditable to the town and the race.

As the town and the neighboring settlements grow, and sanitary improvements are made, the hotels will be forced to improve sanitation and have greater comforts. As they exist today, it is doubtful if the race can boast of better week-end hostelries or restful lodgings in the mid-week. If, however, persistent persecution drives the hotels to retaliatory measures, the type of guest and the conduct may not be desirable. Each keeper has done everything possible to receive and solicit the support of the residents and welcome suggestions for the welfare of the town. In that no mention of restrictions was mentioned in the deeds of sale of lots, they say that they are exercising property rights guaranteed by the State of Maryland, and that the courts will protect them in the exercise of such rights. Ware says that if the commissioners co-operate, he will meet them more than half way in doing what he can to keep the social standards of the community.

A New Negro Town; Name To Be Determined

Tribune
6-7-29
Washington
D C

By a special act of the 70th Congress known as House Bill 469, a new Negro town will be incorporated in nearby Maryland after June 11, if the special election carries, which is to be held next Tuesday.

The section proposed is now known as Fairmount Heights, North Fairmount Heights, Bryn Mawr, Waterford, part of West Fairmount Heights, part of Wisner's Sub-division, part of Slocum's Sub-division in Prince Georges County, Maryland. There is an approximate population of 3,000 people, all colored.

A Referendum Election will be held at Fairmount School from 7 a.m., to 7 p.m., on June 11. The election committee is composed of Charles W. Hawkins, George Patterson and Isaiah Mills as judges, with Robert Palmer and Richard Johnson as clerks. The town is to have a commission form of government such as is had at Highland Beach.

The new colored town will border on the District of Columbia and be in the shadow of the Nation's Capital, and will rank among the largest strictly Negro towns in this country.

JOS. H. DOUGLASS WRITES ABOUT HIGHLAND BEACH

Says He Has Never Transferred Title; Is Opposed To Wire Fences

Washington
Tribune
8-9-29

By Joseph H. Douglass

Accepting your kind invitation for for my review of vexing questions and misleading statements published in the press from time to time concerning Highland Beach, permit me, first, to state my position in the recent election of commissioners.

Without solicitation, my friends voted for me on the principles I stood for and not as a canvassing politician, linked with any faction seeking notoriety and self interest.

Washington
7-08

My vote went solidly for the majority of the elected commissioners who represented my sentiments, and I was glad that Mrs. Fannie H. Douglass was re-elected on those principles, which were for the peace, harmony and welfare for both neighbor settlements with common interests.

All communities, of whatever race, have a hypocrit and trouble maker in their midst, ever ready to distort facts, from which they derive a great personal kick.

How to deal with them successfully is a greater problem than the intruder or undesirable visitor.

Not for Benefit of Gossip

The public or citizens in general of this resort, are not interested in any family misunderstanding, which concerns only the heirs directly, as to who owns the beach or streets or any other property within its confines, and I am not inclined to air the same for the idle gossipers or sensational news readers.

HIGHLAND BEACH

A Paradoxical Community

By EULA G. BROWN

Who Owns the Streets Creates Big Community Problem; Progress Causes Present Trouble; Original Owner's Wife Ran Boarding House

WAS FOUNDED TO CIRCUMVENT SEGREGATION

Tribune
Washington D.C.

Richard Ware Invited To Build Because Sale of Lots Was Sluggish; Taxes Collected May Soon Reach $1,000; Surveys Seem Futile

7-26-29

(Installment I)

Is Highland Beach proving that Negroes are not yet intelligent enough to govern themselves? Would the town's affairs be handled better if there were more commonplace people living there? Should the town be turned back to control by the county authorities, who are white? Is this experiment doomed to failure? Or is this state of affairs typical of the growing pains of all young communities? The writer is going to analyze the situation for the readers of this paper. She has in her possession copies of various articles published, records from the courthouse files, reports of the commissioners of past years and will confer with present and past officials and with citizens in the town.

No Other Place Like It

From what I have been told and have learned, I doubt if there is another community of the same size where there is greater uncertainty as to who owns land and who does not. For several years attempts, out of court, have been made to settle the ownership of streets, the waterfront ownership, and the exact location of lots. There have been surveys and resurveys and with different surveyors come different surveys. Then, there are the usual social problems. For many years, the names of Douglass, Francis, Terrell, Wormley and Bowen rested high in the roster. Then came the influx of newer people. In 1922, the town was incorporated to look after expanding needs. Soon after bigger building operations took place. Automobiles brought more people and brought them quicker. These articles will relate a history of changes which have occurred.

Early History

The following story of the settlement of Highland Beach was old the writer. Major Charles Douglass, son of Frederick Douglass, with his wife, Laura, on a isit to Bay Ridge, a white resort vere denied privileges on account of color. They walked down the beach and discovered that one of the heirs to the farm of a late William Brashears was anxious to get her share of the estate. This farm composed what is now Highland and Venice Beach.

Feeling that its purchase would be a good financial investment, the late Charles Douglass, holding office in Washington and not caring to possess the property in his own name, had his son, Joseph Douglass, buy the property in conjunction with Georgianna Lane, on April 10, 1893. In the same month Joseph Douglass and Georgianna Lane divided the property, 26 acres going to Douglass and the balance to Mrs. Lane.

In the same year the farm was sub-divided, a plat made and recorded in the county courthouse.

Then began the effort to sell lots. Half-page advertisements in the Washington Bee told of the desirability of Highland Beach. Excursions were had. Bath houses were erected and rented out at 25 cents each. Mrs. Douglass kept a boarding house. Lots were sold in 1893, 1894, 1895 and 1896 to M. C. Terrell, Jerome Johnson, Dr. J. R. Francis, George Bowen, Walter Napper, Mary Wormley, Imoigene Wormley and Charles Browne. Four or five homes were built. Then for years there was a lull. Following the razing of the old Bay Ridge resort, and a ready supply of lumber, other homes were erected.

Meanwhile, in 1897, Major Douglass received through sale, the lots unsold while the property was in the name of Joseph. The deed specificaly mentions only the lots, leaving all the rest of the farm in the streets and in the beach in the name of Joseph Douglass. This seems to show that the Major knew that he could not sell streets and the beach.

New Selling Plan

Another advertising plan to sell lots began anew. Among these newer buyers was Richard Ware, whose coming has added to beach life. Ware tells the story, that Douglass said he was tired of the backwardness of the place because lots were not being sold fast enough, and asked him to come down and get some of his best lots, which he did. Ware then built a hotel that spread all over his lot. From Washington, Philadelphia, and other places came many to buy and build. With this coming civic problems increased. Automobiles, better roads, sanitation, fire protection, parking of cars electric lights and policing were to be dealt with. To meet this Major Douglass, Mrs. Terrell and other citizens favored incorporation. The legislature granted the incorporation articles and named Osborn Taylor, Eula Ross Grey Edwin B. Henderson. Haley G Douglass, and Dr. Milton Francis as incorporators.

Town Gets Revenue

The town now received a goodly portion of the money collected from taxes and was allowed to levy taxes for other purposes. This sum yearly increases and soon will reach the $1,000 mark.

As your correspondent views it, there are three underlying principles basic to all the disturbances that have made the little town good summer news to Negroes. First, there is the attempt on the part of original owners to hold on to every property right they think they have. Secondly, some of the purchasers and home owners want to know what their rights are with regard to the beach and the streets. Third, many of the older inhabitants would prefer the peaceful quiet of the older days, while the later day owners of homes and the younger people would like to see lights, good streets, board walks piers, pavilions, modern amusement of one form or another.

Our next instalment will explain some of the problems in detail.

(Continued next week.)

NEGRO TOWN'S MAYOR RETIRES; GIVEN WATCH

Jermiah Hawkins Has Served Brentwood Since Founding Five Years Ago

[illegible]

North Brentwood, Md.—Jeremiah Hawkins, who has retired as mayor of Brentwood, one of the three leading and first established Negro towns in the State, was honored at the Methodist Church by Mayor Gilmore, member of the Town Council and citizens Sunday. Mr. Hawkins held the office since the town was established five years ago.

The program was in charge of Mrs. Addie Baker and included an address by the Rev. W. R. Jones, pastor of the church, and short talks by Mrs. M. M. ones and Mrs. Helen B. Cardoza. In the name of the citizens, Mrs. M. D W. Brown presented Mr. Hawkins with a watch charm, and his wife with flowers.

In Politics

Mr. Hawkins has long been active in republican political circles and has served as delegate and alternate from Montgomery County, in which Brentwood is located.

Towns and Settlements - 1930

Maryland.

102

TO BUCK TOWN HEADS TO ERECT NEW HOSTELRY

Hint That Courts May Be Resorted To In Summer Resort Fight

Tribune

[illegible]

Washington

D.C.

Announcement by Richard F. Ware, proprietor of the recently-destroyed hotel at Highland Beach, Md., that he will rebuild his hostelry has caused a renewal of what has been described as the perennial "Siege of Highland Beach."

The general public, as well as citizens of the beach colony, are awaiting with interest the resumption of hostilities, with its attendant jockeying for position, legal bushwhacking, verbal spoofing, and other types of guerilla warfare that kept agog the press of Washington, Baltimore, and Philadelphia durnig the summer doldrums.

Legal Rumblings Heard

By May 30th of this year, the date tentatively set by Ware for tre completion of the new structure, the present random pot-shots are expected to reach the drumfire crescendo of a Western Front artillery barrage. Already, the rumbling of legal Big Berthas is heard in Annapolis, the county seat, where lawyers of other race continue to reap a rich harvest from the perpetual tribulations of exclusive society folk who summer community.

For years the hotel operated by Ware has been the object of attack of the residents of the ultra-exclusive society folk who sumer here on the ground that the hostelry catered to an undesirable group and brought the rank and file from many cities to enjoy the privileges that should be reserved for only the swank of Baltimore and Washington Society.

Ware Ignores Rumors

Tribune

3-7-30

Washington

Declaring his unshaken belief in the incendiary origin of the recent fire which destroyed his 60-room hotel at a loss of $30,000. Ware discounted rumors of legal obstructions set in his pathway and stated that he is ready to proceed immediately with the construction of another and more completely furnished building on ground adjacent to that on which the ill-fated hotel stood.

Occupies Disputed Grounds

According to Ware, the new building, which, in addition to containing twenty-five bedrooms, each with a noutside sleeping porch, will also provide ample locker and shower facilities for bathers, a commodious lounge, dining room, and dance floor, will be two stories high. With the exception of an ell 28 by 40 feet, which will project into Venice Beach on the south, the entire building, which is to be 90 feet long and 47 feet wide, will be situated, he stated in the much-discussed strip of land, 47 feet in width, which runs east and west along the southern boundary of Highland Beach. The boundaries of this strip were the source of much bickering in recent years. Such arrangement, according to Ware, will make available for automobile parking the entire building lot on which the burned building formerly stood.

Commissioners Mark Time

Pending a definite move by Ware toward building operations, the attitude of the Highland Beach commissioners toward the proposed new structure appears to be non-committal. One influential commissioner stated that the matter would be considered on its merits. Another commissioner expresed the opinion that, providing the hotel met all legal reuqirements, he saw no reason why Ware should not be permitted to rebuild.

New Ordinance

A recent ordinance promulgated in the town requires prospective builders to submit to the board of commissioners for approval plans for proposed buildings and secure a permit therefor from the commisioners. Another ordinance provides that the proprietor of any business operated for profit within the town shall secure a license from the same officers. Inasmuch as a majority of the latter are believed to be unaterably opposed to what has been described as the "commercialization" of the tiny residential community, it is difficult to visualize Ware's plans for a new hotel, should he elect to abide by the ordinance, receiving the stamp of the commissioner's approval.

Legal Fireworks Imminent

Ware's refusal to be governed by either of these ordinances would result, in all probability, in the commissioners seeking to enjoin him from building. Such action, it is predicted, would presage legal fireworks of greater magnitude than have heretofore dazzled and entertained the followers of the town's fortunes, involving as it would the legality, not only of the licensing ordinances and the manner of their promulgation, but the commissioners' authority and the manner in which the community elects its officers.

Claims Not In Beach

Should an injunction be asked and the matter thus be thrown into court, another issue may arise to plague the town fathers. This is the belief held by many present that the proposed site of the new hotel is not within the corporate limits of Highland Beach and therefore is not subject to tre jurisdiction of the town commissioners. With equal conviction, others assert that the 47-foot strip in question is part and parcel of the town. The former claim that the Maryland Legislature, in approving the Highland Beach incorporation act, provided that the boundaries of the town should be those shown in a deed recorded in 1893, which deed they allege, did not include the 47-foot strip on which Ware now proposes to build. If this contention is true, it would appear that the greater portion what may be described as a "No of the hotel will be situated in Man's Land."

In any event, it has been freely predicted that an attempt by Ware to ignore the commissioners or an effort by the latter to prevent construction of the hotel will be laden with legal dynamite and moderation will be necessary to forestall long and costly litigation.

Re-Survey At Venice Beach Causes Lots To Overlap And Trees To Move

World

One Owner Loses 10 Feet And Is Reimbursed By Getting A Like Strip From His Neighbor With Flowers And Outhouses

Highland Beach
Maryland

Venice Beach, Md.

5-2-30

Washington

D.C.

Following the recent re-survey of a large portion of Venice Beach, Md., Washingtonians, particularly those owning land at that point, are awaiting with interest the outcome of the muddle into which the tiny Summer colony's affairs have fallen.

While the general attitude of the residents may be described as one of watchful waiting, it is understood that several property owners, irked by the alleged arbitrary shifting of the boundaries of their lots after a lapse of seven years, are contemplating drastic measures to establish their rights. The guise this action will take was not revealed.

Surveyed His Own

As told to a World representative, Osborn T. Taylor, of 1712 15th street N. W., a retired Government employee, who acquired the ground as farm land, was the original sub-divider. Although not a civil engineer by trade, Taylor, in 1923, undertook to do his own surveying and staked off the ground into what he believed were 50 x 150-foot lots. The majority of these he sold from time to time to Washingtonians, including Samuel D. Milton, J. Parker Gillem, William Nixon, Louis R. Mehlinger, Helen Harris, Francis DeS. Miller. R. E. Syphax, Perry W. Howard, Mrs. Ruth Dabney, Dr. George H. Butcher, Edwina Simpkins, Richard F. Ware, Dwight O. W. Holmes, Charles Webster, Maurice W. Clifford, C. J. Ridgley, and others. Charles Tolson and J. G. Frisby, of Baltimore, also bought lots from Taylor. It is understood that houses have been erected on several lots, while others have been beautified by the planting of shade and fruit trees.

Lot Short 10 Feet

Desiring to straighten the line running along the backs of those lots lying north of Chesapeake avenue, Taylor is said to have hired the county surveyor to go over the ground during January of this year. Using the county surveyor's line as a base, Taylor, it is said, then proceeded to verify his markers laid down in 1923. This action revealed astonishing discrepancies in his original measurements.

Among other variations, it is said that the survey disclosed J. G. Frisby's lot, which is situated in the middle of the subdivision, as being only forty-two feet wide at the front instead of fifty feet. To remedy this error and give Frisby his full fifty feet, Taylor is said to have moved all the stakes along the fronts of the lots, planted seven years previous, from six to eight feet to the west on all of the lots west of Frisby's.

Get Neighbor's Trees

This action automatically shifted J. Parker Gillem's house partially onto the lot of C. J. Ridgley, caused the cottage of Charles Webster to overlap onto the property of Dr. George H. Butcher, and placed trees and shrubs of certain property owners on their neighbor's land. As yet, none of the persons involved in the shift have taken the new survey seriously enough to seek legal advice, but all question the right of Taylor to change the boundaries of the lots seven years after they were sold. Several professed to visualize such bogies as clouded titles and other complications arising from the impasse and expressed themselves as willing to go the limit to protect their rights.

It is believed that Taylor, in view of the tangle engendered by his latest survey, is disposed to let the matter drop and solve the dilemma by reaching an understanding with Frisby.

NEW YORK WORLD

SEP 7 - 1930

Summer Colony for Negroes Exclusive

Highland Beach to Remain Private Residential Resort

By Lester A. Walton

HIGHLAND BEACH, Md., Negro seaside city, is to remain a private resort for resident taxpayers and their guests. The two-year fight against the intrusion of commercialism and the public has been won, the commissioners of Anne Arundel County having rendered a report against the proposal to open a new county road through Venice Beach to the waters of Chesapeake Bay.

In 1929 real estate operators interested in the development of Bay Highlands, a fifty-two acre tract without a water front, petitioned the county commissioners that a thoroughfare be built through Highland Beach to the Chesapeake Bay. So vigorous was the opposition to the plan that it was promptly pigeonholed.

Negroes who had bought lots in Bay Highlands learned to their chagrin that they could not use nearby privately owned beaches and expressed themselves so acridly over having been sold property inaccessible to the water that the project failed to attract many new prospects. No cottages have been erected.

Unsuccessful in gaining an outlet to the bay through Highland Beach, the promoters asked the county commissioners to run a road through Venice Beach, a small strip owned by Negroes adjoining Highland Beach, which has a water front of some one hundred yards. Other advocates were those who visualized a miniature Coney Island.

Residents of Highland Beach, charging that this was another scheme of outside interests to gain a foothold on the beach, joined with Venice Beach to prove to the satisfaction of the county commissioners that no public exigency called for such an artery of travel. Some of Baltimore and Washington's richest men owning summer homes in fashionable Bay Ridge and Arundel-on-the-Bay took sides with the protestants, giving emphatic indication of their mutual concern.

Spoke Highly Of Residents

On Aug. 11, the special committee from the county commissioners listened to the objectors. The session was held in a wooded retreat under spreading trees. Mayor Haley G. Douglass and Dr. John A. Washington, town clerk, spoke on behalf of Highland Beach. Perry W. Howard, Republican National Committeeman for Mississippi, voiced the claims of his fellow-residents of Venice Beach.

Charles Loeffler, who has invested a quarter of a million in giving Bay Ridge beach accommodations, told of having carefully inquired into the character of the people of Highland Beach before investing in his enterprise, stating that he had found the town to be one of the best regulated and orderly in Maryland. He warned that the opening of a public thoroughfare to the water would very seriously change the general character of the neighborhood and necessitate the assignment of law officers to maintain order and regulate the conduct of pleasure-seekers.

C. P. Bond, speaking for the residential section of Bay Ridge, commented on the high character of the Highland Beach residents. W. G. Merideth, representing the mayor and the commissioners of Arundel-on-the-Bay, attested to the cordial relations existing between the two races for thirty years. Truxton Beale, Sylvanus Stokes, Dr. J. L. D. Murray, Col. P. M. Anderson, George Kakh, William Linkins, E. C. Graham and N. Shea were among the prominent men to give Highland Beach their moral support.

Highland Beach was incorporated as a town in 1922 and is conducted under a commission form of government. The commissioners are Haley G. Douglass Harvard graduate, a grandson of Frederick Douglass and a high school teacher in Washington, who is mayor; Talley R. Holmes, former Negro tennis champion and a Washington school teacher, who is treasurer; Mrs. Fannie Douglass, wife of Joseph Douglass, the violinist, who is postmistress; J. Thomas Williams, a retired Philadelphia caterer, and Dr. William Wells of Washington. Dr. John E. Washington, a Washington school teacher and dentist, is town clerk.

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Location Has Literary Interest

At the death of Major Douglass the property was left to his sons, Haley and Joseph Douglass, who have refused tempting offers to commercialize the resort. They have religiously sought to adhere to the original aims of the founders. Highland Beach is peopled three months in the year by professional and business folk, principally from Washington, Baltimore and Philadelphia. Some of the cottages are pretentious. Many have modern conveniences.

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HIGHLAND BEACH CONGRATULATING ITSELF ON REMAINING EXCLUSIVE

Norfolk Journal and Guide

8-30-30

The Mayor, A Grandson of Fred Douglass, Fights Commercializing of Resort

Norfolk Va.

By Lester A. Walton

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Towns and settlements- 1930

Maryland

Highland Beach Congratulating Itself On Remaining Exclusive

Washington Tribune

9.26-30

The Mayor, a Grandson of Fred Douglass Fights Commercializing of Resort

Washington, D.C.

By Lester A. Walton

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All Old Commissioners At Highland Beach Reelected

Little Excitement Marks Annual Election Of Candidates; William Wells Receives Largest Number Of Votes Cast

[illegible] D.C.

Highland Beach, Md.—The election of town commissioners at Highland Beach, on Saturday, afforded little of the excitement which heretofore has featured this annual event at the tiny salt-water colony on Chesapeake Bay. The entire slate was reelected. The candidates for office and the votes they received were as follows:

*William A. Wells	40 votes
*Thomas Williams	38 votes
*Haley G. Douglass	37 votes
*Fannie H. Douglass	35 votes
*Talley R. Holmes	34 votes
L. Roscoe Evans	10 votes

(*Present incumbent.)

In accordance with the town's constitution, which provides that the five candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall serve as commissioners, Messrs. Wells, Williams, Douglass, Holmes, and Mrs. Douglass, all of whom are already in office, were declared reelected for another term. The election judges were M. Grant Lucas, Sr., Dr. Carroll Brooks, and Mrs. Ulysses Wharton. The clerks were Dr. J. A. Washington, town clerk, and Miss Alice Lewis. The polls were open from 3:00 to 8:00 p. m., to accommodate late-comers.

Fireworks Lacking

The absence of the more or less bitter display of ill feeling and recrimination which in past years has been the subject of much press comment, was attributed by leading citizens to various causes. While many regarded the almost unanimous reelection of the present incumbents as a hearty endorsement of the administration's policies, others were prone to construe the lack of opposition as due primarily to the rapidly-growing feeling in the community that the townspeople should discard the tomahawks which they (figuratively speaking) have so enthusiastically wielded on one another and present a united front to various outside influences and interests which, it is asserted, are seeking to overrun and commercialize the neighborhood. The elected commissioners will select one of their number as mayor. Haley Douglass was the former executive.

Towns and Settlements-1931

Maryland

Highland Beach

SELF RULE URGED FOR MARYLAND SMALL TOWN

Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.

WASHINGTON. — Twelve hundred citizens of Fairmont Heights heard Perry W. Howard, Mississippi national committeeman, and Jefferson R. Coage, recorder of deeds, extol the move to incorporate the town, Sunday afternoon at the W. Bruce Evans Elks Home.

Mr. Howard spoke of Mound Bayou, Mississippi, a flourishing town incorporated and controlled by our group He urged his hearers to put forth all efforts possible to demonstrate the capability of the race for self-government.

Recorder Coage said in part, that if the voters failed to avail themselves of the opportunity of incorporation, it would show that they are incapable of self-government. "The Maryland legislature has passed the bill of incorporation," he said. "and it is up to you to approve the act.

"It is time that Fairmont Heights should be cleared up, sewers installed, streets graded, sidewalks made, and general community interest raised. Since the annual tax levies are not to exceed ten cents on each $100, there can be no objection along the line of excessive taxation.

"An opportunity for self-government should not be lost. I hope you will demonstrate 100 per cent for the cause of self-determination and thereby show your neighbors that you merit liberty and freedom," Mr. Coage said in conclusion.

Other speakers were Hawkins and Goodrich. Both Mr. Coage and Mr. Howard received the thanks of the audience for their excellent addresses. Miss May Hobert sang a solo.

The meting was held under the auspices of the athletic club, with Walter S Crouse acting as chairman.

BEACH OFFICIALS WORK FOR BILLS

HIGHLAND BEACH, Md. — The commissioners of Highland Beach, and the officials of the Highland Beach Civic Association have been active in gathering support of state and legislative officials for the repeal of the Jim Crow car law and for the equal salary bill.

They not only presented their own arguments, but endorsed every argument made by Mr. Fitzgerald, Dr. McCard, Mr. Smith, the AFRO, and others, and thanked Governor Ritchie and the legislative committee for the courtesies shown the Baltimore delegation.

Having received letters of "thanks" for their "comments and suggestions" from the state's leaders, they expect a favorable vote by the senate.

DEPUTIES HALT UNINVITED AT HIGHLAND BEACH

Afro-American
7-4-31
Baltimore, Md.

HIGHLAND BEACH, Md.—Motorists bent upon having a day of fun at Highland Beach were disappointed when two deputy sheriffs met them at the entrance and turned them back.

Highland Beach is an all-colored, incorporated, summer resort on the Chesapeake Bay, five miles below Annapolis, where the residents have banned themselves together to keep undesirables out.

Many were wise enough however, to state that they were going to Ware's Hotel, and were thereby permitted to enter the restricted zone. Mr. Ware openly deplored the conditions and declared that he will use every means at his disposal to break down the barriers raised by his swanky neighbors.

Towns and Settlements – 1932

Maryland

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Highland Beach, Md., Sick and Tired of Abuses, Wars on Unjust Criticisms

Afro-American 9-24-32

Voters Decide to Issue Statement Through Town Fathers. Explain Singing Case. To Build New Pavilion in Spite of Threatened Injunction

Afro-American

Baltimore, Md

HIGHLAND BEACH, Md.—For the first time in the 40 years of its existence the city officials of this Maryland town issued their first statement in answer to the criticisms that have been heaped upon the administrators during the years.

Declaring that they were sick and tired of criticism, a release covering the entire beach situation was sent out this week, signed by John R. Francis, president of the citizens' association, and Dr. J. E. Washington, the town clerk.

The release follows:

"Recently the largest gathering of citizens ever assembled here, met at the postoffice, to devise ways and means for combating the unjust criticisms and abuses that have in recent years been heaped upon the town. The citizens' association, board of commissioners and voters' league voted unanimously to employ every available means in the town, county and state to bring to justice the outside culprits who have waxed fat with their unjust anonymous criticisms, and the disappointed individuals within the town who have constantly tried to wreck it, destroy its officials and break down its traditions.

Keep Criminals Out

"For many years, the only crime committed by the town has been its determination to keep from its midst the racketeers and social parasites who come here to ply their trade and the bootleggers who openly have paraded the beach with their bottles, and others who, knowing that our town is far from help of the state authorities, have violated every decent principle of life, which a respectable community demands and upholds.

"The commission board, composed of men fearless and determined, have never neglected to carry out the wishes of the people, and in the language of their most bitter assailant, have been, 'long on law and order.' These men have been assailed on every hand, and not only their positions, but their very lives threatened, but courageously they have not retreated one iota from their duties to their trusts; and Highland Beach will continue to manage its affairs as it pleases, regardless of all knocks.

Scandalized

"A few years ago, throughout the land, a series of malicious, scandalous and libelous articles were published under the name of 'Eula G. Brown'—a name planned to debase the secretary of the citizens' association and the president of the pavilion committee, for no other reason than that she had not voted for an official whom she deemed unfit for office.

"These articles distorted every fact concerning the history and workings of the town, and endeavored to hold in ridicule, the entire town with whom the writer himself had so long been connected.

"They even attempted to cause enmity with our neighbors of Venice Beach, many of whom are our relatives and all our friends. The object at first was not known, but suspected. The following years the white land owners of the vicinity who had previously failed with their colored assistants to destroy Highland Beach, planned to force a state road through Venice Beach, thinking that their propagandists had succeeded in their purposes. This road, if successful, would permit the whites to enter, take possession of the beach and ultimately force the colored inhabitants from the waters of the Chesapeake Bay.

"The articles were a failure, the plan collapsed, and when the time came for the dastardly deed to be enacted. the very officials of Highland Beach, whom the articles sought to destroy, rallied to the support of their neighbors and secured a backing against the county officials, which left the entire neighborhood to enjoy its peace as of former days and to the race, a water front unequalled anywhere.

Raps Columnist

"Following this failure, the energetic defamers have remained silent but during the past summer, the little columnist, with his advisers within the town, has again rushed into print, and again begun to distort every fact about our management and citizens.

"The first assault came about the town's not incorporating with Venice Beach and Bay Highlands. Under present conditions this is impossible. Bay Highlands, belonging to a white Annapolis preacher, runs from lake to lake and is separated from Highland Beach by a strip of land 1-6 of a mile wide belonging to Mr. Meyers, white. Until he agrees to join either Highland Beach or Bay Highlands, this cannot be done.

Separate Lands

"Venice Beach, our neighboring town, is separated also from Highland Beach by a strip of county land belonging to private individuals; until they agree to join either Venice Beach or Highland Beach, this cannot be done. Then why continually blame the town for something that is an impossibility under present conditions?

"The front street of the town is less than 600 feet long, in front of it is the little beach. In order to prevent an epidemic, the bushes used for individual comfort stations, and for changing clothes and purposes too low to mention in print have been destroyed. Their lairs destroyed, a loud wail of abuse is heard.

"First the commisioners were ridiculed in the Hall case. The entire neighborhood being disturbed by the loud screamings on Friday evenings and Saturdays until sun-down, many private individuals appealed in vain to Mrs. Hall to soften down her services.

"Receiving no assistance, the citizens petitioned the commissioners for redress. Failing as did the individuals, a letter sent to her requesting her co-operation was published and held up to ridicule the commissioners. Finally, the county authorities stepped in, found Mrs. Hall guilty of disturbing the peace, and placed her under a bond of $100.

"It developed that the causes for such sporadic outbursts were that the commissioners had compelled Mrs. Hall to obey the building regulations, and when her son was found guilty of threats upon the life of the mayor. he too, was put under a bond to keep the peace. Before this time, Mrs. Hall was a quiet worshipper, after this, she hurled abuse at the citizens and officials and sings in a 'loud voice.'

Flays Politicians

"Many years ago, before the comming of the illustrious in our humble midst; before the days of the universal politician; in the days when the Sabbath was remembered here and kept holy; when the humble housewives plied their trades and the men worked together like a band of friends and brothers among whom no contention existed except that noble contention of who best could work and best agree; and the little children safe in the happy performance of their little pranks on the sands of the beach and on the waters of the bay; in the days before the big houses were constructed, the grove furnished our only meeting place and the patrician founder of our town and the reverend pastor moved among us.

"As we grew, the necessity for a better meeting place grew and two of our first settlers, respected widows with families and highly esteemed by all, began a project of raising funds and presenting to the town a pavilion with appropriate exercises.

"The movement begun, grew slowly. Officials came and went, but their struggle for funds went on. Meetings of citizens were held, and, at each, reports were made. The few workers, regardless of disappointments continued to work for success. Finally, when it was announced that the necessary amount had been raised and in a Washington bank, where the interest gained had greatly swelled the amount raised by the committee, the **do-nothings** and **gossipers** and self-appointed leaders sought to get possession of the money or to dictate the plans and to take away from those who had worked for years, the honor of accomplishing their life's task.

To Build Pavilion

"When the day for final arrangements came, the treasurer of the pavilion fund and one of the originators of the movement, presented to the citizens' association the money. It was refused by a motion that the funds should rest in the hands of the treasurer and by her deposited in an Annapolis bank to be immediately available for pavilion construction.

"The trouble makers, malicious gossipers, having again met a dreadful 'Waterloo'; distorted facts, reflecting upon the honesty of citizens were given out by the press and it was stated that the money was in a Washington safe deposit box, two weeks after it had been placed in Annapolis.

"An attempt also, has been made to defeat the project by persons without the town, with an injunction. The commissioners, 'strong for law and order,' will assume the responsibility, and now that the money is available, the site selected, contract awarded, and the necessary legal papers drawn, they will grant the permit.

Tired of Mud Slinging

"Knowing that every intelligent and decent Negro takes a personal pride in any accomplishment that is a credit to the race, and that the fair-minded readers of the Negro press are tired of this mud-slinging, back-biting—tactics of small unworthy self-appointed distortionists; listening to the universal appeals of our friends throughout the country—we are forced at this time to step into print, knowing that when the real story is out, another view will be taken.

"Suffering long from abuses in the press and from invectives hurled at our officials, we have remained silent; but now that the fair name of one of our most respectable and honest women has fallen a prey to such a low orgy of abuse, patience ceases to be a virtue.

"The real, red-blooded men of the community, in meeting assembled have solemnly and sincerely promised and sworn to use every honorable means to defend the fair reputation of the defenseless women in our minds. We shall fight the traitors within, and the enemy without our city gates.

Will Preserve Peace

Highland Beach will always stand on its present high ground—long for law and order, equal rights and protection to all of its citizens, true to its noble traditions, the race and native land. No amount of criticism, sarcasm, abuse, maliciousness, shall cause it to cease in its endeavors to maintain a place where our wives, children and friends are safe from the debasing influences, and crooks of low degree whose purpose it is—to destroy.

"We have suffered long, but from this day, in every honorable way we shall uphold every righteous principle upon which our town was founded and will fight, fight, fight for the right as God has given us the power to see the right—to maintain what the special correspondent of the New York World and 'high powered lawyers' investigating the entire neighborhood, found to be—the best regulated and governed town in the State of Maryland.

"Issued by order of the Citizens' Association of Highland Beach, Maryland."

(Signed) JOHN R. FRANCIS,
President.
J. E. WASHINGTON, D.D.S.,
Town Clerk.

Highland Beach Tired of Abuse

Afro American
9 Sept 32
Baltimore,
Md.

One residential section of Highland Beach, Maryland, on the Chesapeake Bay, where the officials declare they are tired of being abused by criticisms in the public press, and issued their first official statement of conditions this week. (Story on Page Seven)

Towns - ~~1914~~

11

THE PHILADELPHIA TRIBUNE MAN INSPECTS LINCOLN, MARYLAND

The Philadelphia Tribune

An Aristocratic Settlement of Our Citizens, Located Between Baltimore and Washington. Many Philadelphians are Interested.

12-26-14

BY G. GRANT WILLIAMS.

As announced in last issue of the Tribune I took Sunday, the 14th to visit and inspect Lincoln, Maryland, where so many Philadelphians have purchased or are buying home sites. Leaving the city, over the Pennsylvania Railway at 7:55 a. m., Sunday, in company with Mr. T. J. Calloway, vice-president and general manager of Lincoln, we reached Baltimore in two hours. At Baltimore we changed to the Washington Baltimore and Annapolis Electric Railroad and arrived in Lincoln in a short trolley ride of about an hour. Although it is not the season for rustic scenery, the trip afforded many pleasant views from the car.

Arriving in Lincoln we found a the community at church. So w tramped through the streets, a over the extensive plant, getting good view of many points of inte est, and an appetite and thirst. Th appetite was soon fully satisfied a choice dinner served by my o Philadelphia friends, Mr. and Mr William A. Davis. The thirst w got rid of by partaking of glasse f Lincoln spring water that boi up from a sandy bottom and full quenches thirst. At dinner Mrs. D vis served us meats, potatoes, mil and pickles that she had raised her own yard, a single lot. Follo ing the dinner, Mr. Calloway intr duced me to Mrs. Calloway, Mr. an Mrs. Frank W. Holland, Mr. an Mrs. Wm. Durham, Mr. and Mrs. V H. Freeman, Mr. and Mrs. I. Hatton, Mr. J. Henry Brown, Pres dent of the Lincoln Land and In provement Co., and to others who names I have not retained. Lat on we took the train for Washin ton, D. C., and met friends. At p. m., we boarded the return tra in the magnificent Union Statio reaching our own Broad Street s tion soon after 10 p. m., all on t same day.

It seems hard to realize th while I spent a large part of t day in Lincoln I had breakfast Philadelphia, supper in Washingto had a short while in Baltimore a as back in Philadelphia before be ime all on one day. This fact alone is a striking proof of the accese location of Lincoln.

Store and Hotel of W. A. Da

While there are many things about Lincoln of which I wish to speak, for I confess I was surprised as I had not heard of Lincoln ten days ago, the first matter is that of my old friend, W. A. Davis, whom I had lost sight of since he conducted his store at South 16th and Bainbridge Streets. He was a trustee of Holy Trinity Baptist Church, and active in the society of the Knights of Pythias. It appears that he sold out his store here over two years ago, went quietly to Lincoln, purchased a good business site, built him a large store and hotel, and went to work. The building is two stories and a half high, and besides the store and a large public dining room and kitchen on the first floor, he has eleven rooms above for living and hotel purposes. The store is well stocked with general merchandise. Mr. Davis also holds the responsible position of Ticket Agent of Washington, Baltimore and Annapolis Electric Railway.

Lincoln Brick Manufacturing Co

As I was rolling into Lincoln from Baltimore, my attention was called to a brick yard and machinery. The plant of a company of colored men organized in Baltimore and engaged the past season in making brick. While their first kiln of 150,000 brick made this summer was not as good as anticipated, the company is determined next year to make a big out put, the market for which is close at hand.

Three Railway Stations.

In the description of my day's visit to Lincoln, perhaps I should properly have begun with a note of the size of the place, but census statistics are not usually interesting to average reader and I do not wish to bore Tribune readers. Lincoln has a mile frontage on the great double track electric line about one third of that distance on both sides of the line. There are three regular stations with station houses in

Lincoln is said to be favorable. Even if the college in question does not accept the site another is in prospect, so it seems assured that Lincoln will soon have a college.

National Chautauqua Plans.

The Lincoln National Chautauqua Association was organized a year ago with Bishop John Hurst of Baltimore, president; Rev. W. G. Park, pastor Union Baptist Church of Philadelphia, vice-president; Prof. D. S. S. Goodloe, principal State Normal School, Bowie, Md., secretary; Harry T. Pratt, Business man, Baltimore, treasurer; Thomas J. Calloway of Lincoln, as business manager. The other trustees are Rev. L. G. Jordan, Philadelphia; Carrington L. Davis, Baltimore; John R. Hawkins and Garnet C. Wilkerson of Washington, and J. H. Blackwell of Richmond, Va. In an interview with Bishop Hurst, he said:

"The Chautauqua has come to be a recognized means of social uplift. The original organization at Chautauqua, N. Y., is a world institution. It is related that a German official asked advice of Von Holst, the historian, what he should see in America and was told to go to Niagara Falls as the grandest thing in nature, and then turn the corner and go to Chautauqua, the most interesting thing in the United States. In an anniversary address the late President Harper, of the University of Chicago, said:

What Chautauqua Is.

"'Chautauqua is, first, an institution of learning, and as such has relationship to other institutions of learning. Chautauqua does not attempt to cover the field of secondary instruction in America. That is provided for by our common school system. Chautauqua does not attempt to take the place for our higher institutions of learning. That field is also occupied. But Chautauqua endeavors to bring these fields together. Chautauqua has relationships with both, and is unique in its efforts to do for the higher and for the lower a work which had not been undertaken before. And indeed, in twenty yeas of its history, who does not see the magnificent work in this direction which it has accomplished? But more; Chautauqua is a sociological movement, and wonder if yet we know or understand the philosophy of this movement that has swept over this country and over other countries, a movement that is in active operation in every State, a movement the beneficent influences of which have been felt by thousands."

Rev. L. G. Jordon, for the past eighteen years, secretary of the Foreign Missions Board of National Baptist Convention, is an enthusiastic member of Chautauqua board.

"In my travels over the country," Dr. Jordan says, "I am constantly thrown in contact with teachers, other professional and business men and women who desire just such a place of assembly as Lincoln, it being so accessible to the historical and settled part of the country.

"We are going to put up a hotel, a pavilion and other equipment so that we may handle those who come.

"In the first place we propose to give everybody a good time. People who work hard all the year need a place where they can play and enjoy themselves. Preachers and teachers need this as much or more than others. Nature and man have united in making Lincoln just about the right spot for Negroes to gather.

"Our Chautauqua grounds comprise about 15 acres, including a lake. The lake is in the rough but already a dredge is at work to clear it up. When the lake is in shape and the proposed hotel and other buildings erected, I feel safe in predicting that the most popular summer resort in the United States to the best class of colored citizens will be Lincoln."

In closing my comments on Lincoln I wish to refer to one very striking feature, at first a mystery, but now clear. I could not understand how in less than three hours' ride from Philadelphia this colored town, a gigantic race enterprise, could have escaped my attention. I now see that the object of the promoters of Lincoln has been to include only a select list of investors and hence a quiet work has been done without noise and publicity. It seems hardly credible that over 700 colored people have bought, or are buying lots in Lincoln, and yet so quietly done that the Tribune is the first race paper to tell the news of this place. I saw the names of more than fifty prominent Philadelphians who are lot purchasers. Among them are Lawyer Chas. H. Brooks, Reverends W. A. Creditt, J. S. Jackson, W. F. Graham, W. G. Parks, A. R. Robinson, Messrs, Jerome Baptiste, Thomas Byrd, Henry Robinson, George W. Smith, Arthur Thompson, Robert Herrington, S. E. Monroe, David A. Payne, Mrs. Mary J. Carter, Maggie Mathias and many others equally well known.

It would not be possible to give a complete statement about Lincoln without including some comment upon the man whom all concede is the leading spirit. Thomas J. Calloway is not a stranger to the public, being most widely known as the commissioner of Negro exhibits at Paris, France, and at Jamestown, Va. I have asked him to close this story of my day at Lincoln with a statement in his own language of the purpose and history of Lincoln to the growth of which he is giving the larger portion of his active service.

T. J. Calloway's Statement.

Nearly every person who travels in the United States will some time travel from Washington City to Baltimore. If he takes the Pennsylvania Railway, he passes by Lincoln on one side, and if he takes the popular Electric line, he passes through Lincoln on the other side. There are not many minutes at any hour of the day when a train is not pasing. Lincoln is also on the driveway from Washington City to Annapolis, the capitol city of Maryland, where also is located the U. S. Naval Academy, and many fashionable bathing resorts. What better location could any colored man or group of colored people desire to plant a manufacturing business? Already we have the Brick Manufactury. We shall welcome any others.

Lincoln Select and High Class.

So many of my friends have

the townsite, and two sidings, one of which is sufficient to store ten cars. Surrounding the Central station is a semi-circular park, covered with a species of oak trees, approximately a hundred feet high. From this park, or Plaza, radiate a number of streets, notably Lincoln and Center Aves, seventy feet wide, and Park and Elm Sts., fifty feet wide. Altogether there are four miles of streets, all cleared up and board walks down where needed. Not a single street is less than fifty feet wide, and the blocks are all intersected with alleys 15 ft. wide The ground seems to be gently roll-

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Complete System of Water Works.

One of the most agreable surprises was to find a complete system of water works in operation. It appears that there are several fine springs in Lincoln. One of these has been piped into a reservior of concrete construction of something like thirty thousand gallons capacity From here a gasoline engine pumps the water into a tower of ten thousand gallow capacity, whence it flows through a water main to the various homes. From my taste of this water I can understand why the Lincolnites seem so healthy.

A Church Going Up.

Lest I forget to mention it I will refer here to the church building going up. The brick foundation has been put in and corner stone laid. While not large, about 30 by 40 feet, it will serve the community for the present. The remarkable thing about this church is that while the pioneer residents of Lincoln are made up of persons who were formerly of a number of denominations they have all united in one church. The pastor, Rev. William Durham, and his wife, devote themselves vigorously during [illegible] to raising chickens, garde [illegible] other wholesome and p [illegible] or. They are building a [illegible] cottage for themselve [illegible] which they have planted fru and shade trees, shrubbery, etc.

Beautiful Residences at Lincoln

Certainly, the most striking thing

at Lincoln was and building. The lots 50 feet by 150, and give room for the house and surroundings without cramping. I will not make the attempt to describe all these homes for some of them I only saw from the outside. Each is interesting, but not being familiar with the language of builders I should probably find myself repeating the same words in describing each home. The home of Architect I. T. Hatton is finished off with a second story shingle effect that looks mighty good.

For a neat, comfortable and well-appointed home I wish I had power to give a picture of the home of Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Calloway. It is close to the station, and a board walk lands you in a hundred or so steps at the front door. A porch takes up front and side with large ten-inch columns. There are four rooms on the first floor—reception room, parlor, dining room and kitchen; an open stairway leads to second floor, where there are four bed rooms and bath. A cellar takes up the whole of the basement. There is modern plumbing throughout, and gas for light and cooking. A furnace in basement does the heating. The cost of construction struck me as remarkably small. This is partly explained by the fact that Lincoln has its own lumber yard, having early established a saw mill, and cut a half million feet of lumber for building purposes.

Lincoln Soon to Have a College

There was pointed out to me a site of twenty-five acres which the Lincoln Company has offered to an old established college, which has decided to move from its present location in a crowded city. This college is to spend, I am advised, more than a hundred thousand dollars in new buildings at once, and to erect others from time to time. No definite action has been taken by trustees of the college, but the outlook of

Continued on Page 5.

shown their faith in me and their willingness to trust their money and interests in Lincoln that I wish I had space to make a sort of "who's who" description of the more than 700 persons who have bought, or are buying in Lincoln. Such a story must await the biographer, who desires to write a book on the pioneer spirit of the race. Suffice it to say here that our list includes a fine group of Negroes who believe in Negroes, who are not ashamed of being Negroes, and who prefer a high class Negro community to a begrudged toleration among white folks.

These we have sought and others like them we still seek. We do not mean the kid glove social aspirant, but the substantial men and women whatever their lines of occupation. To be clear I ask permision to refer to only two of our investors, as types of many others.

Dr. Daniel P. Seaton is a hard working man. He was a pioneer in the medical profession, combining, as was frequent then, both the practice of medicine and the ministry. He was thrifty and careful and is now a man of large means, owning valuable property in Washington City, Baltimore, Md., and Chester, Pa., without a cent of mortgage on any of it. He has made three trips to the old world, visiting Europe, Asia and Africa, and has published a book recounting his travels, which is probably the best of its kind from a Negro author. His children have been carefully educated and are at work leading useful lives. Such a man had the choice of locating anywhere. With his means he could have bought "in the most exclusive white neighborhood" of any city anywhere. But he has chosen Lincoln, where his life and his means will be among Negroes. He is building now a fine home of 12 or 13 rooms at Lincoln. A Negro architect, I. T. Hatton, also living at Lincoln, drew his plans. A Negro contractor, F. W. Holland, living at Lincoln, is doing the building. A Negro plumber, graduate of Hampton Institute, also living at Lincoln, has put in the water connection. A Negro plasterer investing in Lincoln, will plaster the house. A Negro merchant, W. A. Davis, is furnishing supplies.

One other example: I first met Mrs. Booker T. Washington 30 years ago, when as girl and boy we became class mates in Fisk University, from which we graduated together seven years late. As a partner of her distinguished husband at Tuskegee she has shared in his popularity and merited success. They first had a summer home in New England, later in Long Island, New York. Now she has purchased a lot in Lincoln for her summer home, and proposes soon to erect a cottage for her family.

If space permitted, I would refer particularly to Emmet J. Scott, the popular secretary of Tuskegee and National Negro Business League, to Bishops Flipper and Holsey, to a number of distinguished clergymen, physicians, teachers and laymen, but having already surpassed all reasonable indulgence, I conclude by saying that to the colored man or woman who "ain't been whar he's gwine" Lincoln holds possibilities for a hundred thousand population.

COMMENTS.

Rev. W. F. Graham says:

"I think I was the first person to buy a lot in Lincoln. Recently I have finished paying for it and propose to build a cottage in the spring for the summer use of myself and family. I think I see in the future that Washington and Baltimore will practically unite and as Lincoln is the finest spot between these cities the property value will greatly increase."

Lawyer Chas. H. Brooks says:

"When I visited Lincoln sometime ago, I was favorably impressed with its location and beauty, and being in close proximity to both Washington and Baltimore makes it an especially desirable suburban place of residence."

Rev. W. G. Parks says:

"I have often visited Lincoln and I have great hope of its future. As a guarantee of this fact I have purchased a lot there and regard it not only as a good financial investment, but one of the most helpful locations I know of. Last summer I spent several days at Lincoln, and I found that the week at Lincoln meant more to me in the way of rest and recuperation than two weeks at the seashore."

Mr. Jerome Baptiste says:

"Sometime ago I bought two lots in Lincoln and have nearly finished paying for them. I am thoroughly interested in the future of this town."

7

F, Towns

Street Improvement Program
THE LINCOLN CITIZENS ASSOCIATION
1928

RECEIPTS:

Alexander, B.	$3.00
Adams, V.	3
Anderson, N.	3
Bell, J. T.	3
Blount, P. L.	3
Boston, D.	3
Boston, W. H.	3
Boyce, S.	1.50
Boyer, L.	5
Butler, H. R.	3
Calloway, T. J.	3
Carroll, N. J.	1.75
Carter, R. A.	1.50
Clark, F.	3
Colbert, A.	2
Cooper, B. B.	3
Curry, A. B.	1.50
Collins, M.	3
Dorsey, J.	3
Farmer, B.	3
Flipper, J. S.	3
Ford, O. J.	1
Ford, W. H.	3
Frye, H.	3
Gaskins, J.	1
Ghee, F. P.	3
Gleeton, L.	3
Gordon, M. A.	3
Graham, W. F.	3
Gray, M.	3
Grant, E. A.	3
Hamlet, E. E.	3
Hebb, J.	1
Hill, M. D.	3
Holman, E. T.	3
James, S. J.	3
Jackson, J. D.	3
Jiggets, J.	3
Johnson, C. C.	3
Lindsay, K. J.	3
Mitchel, J. W.	3
McGee, N.	3
McCoy, J. E.	3
Moore, J. H.	2
Newton, A. M.	3
Pope, S.	$1.50
Partee, H. B.	3
Pannell, W.	3
Powell, W.	3
Quander, S.	1
Robinson, A.R.	3
Ramsey, C. S.	3
Roane, M. M.	3
Saunders, A.V.	3
Seth, J. T.	3
Simmons, W. S.	3
Scott, P. A.	2
Smith, D. W.	3
Smith, E. A.	3
Socks, H. P.	5
Spaulding, C.C.	3
Taylor, A.C.	3
Taylor, E.E.	3
Taylor, J.W.	3
Towne, T.F.	3
Tyler, E.G.	3
Thompson, H.	3
Welsh, J.M.	1
Winston, A.W.	3
Woodson, J.	3
Work, M.N.	3
Young, A.	4
Young, D.J.	3
	$203.75

EXPENSES:

Teams	$96.00
Laborers	65.25
Culverts	56.37
Cinders	25.00
Interest	2.00
Printing & postage	18.85
	$263.47
Receipts	$203.75
Bank loan	100.00
	$303.75
Expenses	263.47
Balance	$40.28

LINCOLN LOT OWNERS:

WE HAVE BOUGHT and placed in the streets where needed five galvanized corrugated 12 inch culvert pipes; GRADED portions of six streets; SURFACED with a sand-gravel mixture about 1000 feet of the most used streets.

WE WANT TO PUT MEN TO WORK cutting the wild growth of weeds and bushes in some of the less used streets; to BUY several tons of crushed road stone; to BUY and place a number of car loads of cinders.

THOSE WHOSE NAMES ARE LISTED have done their duty and WE THANK THEM. Many others have not yet responded. If they will pay their dues of 25 cents a month, $3 for the year, we will go forward improving our town.

Yours for Progress

LINCOLN CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

Julia E. Gibson

Secretary.

Lincoln,
Lanham,
Maryland,
July 27, 1928.

"God made the Country
MAN made theTown."

Towns and Settlements - 1921.

Maryland.

BALTIMORE MD NEWS
JULY 31, 1920

TELLS OF NEGRO COLONY

Dr. Goucher Outlines Plans For The Morgan College Development.

Dr. John F. Goucher, president of the board of trustees of Goucher College, told of plans for the "model colony" of negroes yesterday in his address at the dedication of the main auditorium of Morgan College on the College tract at Hillen road and Arlington avenue.

He said the time was nearly ripe for the pushing of the venture and that although no work had been done along these lines, the plans called for the erection of 200 homes at a cost of about $3500 each.

The exercises were in connection with the seventeenth annual meeting of the National Association of Teachers in Colored Schools, which has been in progress in Baltimor this week and which spent the da yesterday on the Morgan Colleg grounds. In the afternoon se[illegible] officers of the organization spoke.

"Model Colony"
Morgan College Development
Maryland-

Towns and Settlements - 1933

Maryland

Silver Spring, Md

Bystander

5-19-33

Des Moines

Iowa

ENTRANCE OF WIHTE FAMILY INTO COMMUNITY PROTESTED

Silver Springs, Md. (CNS) — Resi-
community near Colesville, in Mont-
dents of Smithville, a small Negro
gomery County, are protesting the en-
trance of a white family into their
locality.

The Citizens Building and Loan Association of Silver Springs, holders of a mortgaged property which was to be sold, had a prospective white buyer and this has caused the formal protest to be made.

Towns and Settlements - 1927

Maryland

76

U. Fairmount Is A Promising Industrial District

By JOHN H. REED, D. D.

The Upper Fairmount section situated in the northeastern portion of the state of Maryland, is unique both in its geographical location and in the character of its population.

Afro American

The whole section, known as Fairmount, is most admirably situated between the Annamessex and Manekin Rivers, and is divided into two parts—namely: Upper Fairmount and Lower Fairmount, comprising alluvial soil, and a splendid agricultural district watered by the above named rivers. The chief products are strawberries, tomatoes, corn, white potatoes, sweet potatoes, beans, cabbage, with other variety of farm products, peculiar to the soil and well adapted to truck farming.

Baltimore

The population of the entire section known as Fairmount, is approximately 1,200 including both races. With no thought of segregation on the part of the early settlers, the Negro population is principally settled upon the beautiful site of Upper Fairmount, making up a distinct group in a population of about 500 and a scholastic population of 125 children as shown by the school registration.

This Negro group own their lands and have erected splendid homes upon the same which present the most beautiful appearance of any section in the rural districts of the state of Maryland. The racial relations between whites and blacks, is indeed most harmonious and mutually helpful. This may be observed in all of the interrelations of business life, with no infringements upon the social rights of one group over against the other.

TWO SCHOOLS

There are two colored public schools, one in the upper section and one in the lower. The whites operate the Fairmount Academy under the school system of Somerset County. Mr. Herbert S. Wilson, one of Methodism's most prominent laymen, was Supervisor of the Colored Public Schools of Somerset County for nearly fifteen years; he was born and nurtured in Fairmount, and is now the honored and efficient Supervisor of Schools in Kent County.

CHURCH LIFE

The Church life of the community, is made up of two distinct colored congregations of the Methodist Episcopal Church—namely: Centennial Methodist Episcopal Church, known as the Mother Church, and Saint Andrews Methodist Episcopal Church, both of the Salisbury District, Delaware Annual Conference.

The question of public utility and improvement, is the one uppermost in the thought of our colored group, and to this end, the leaders of the race in Upper Fairmount, are alert for the best possible movements to make the unique village a center of racial uplift. To this end, the most recent step taken was a petition to the Post Office Department at Washington, for the establishment of a Post Office at this point, in order to meet the demands of our section so admirably located upon this prominent territory.

Mr. E. Graham Waters, our leading colored merchant here, took the initiative in this movement, and personally circulated the petition, obtaining the signatures of the leading citizens of the village, which resulted in the coming of the Post Office Inspector for investigation. The Inspector was indeed most favorably impressed, and recommended to the Department, the establishment of a Post Office, under the name of Upper Hill, Maryland, Somerset County. This new Post Office, is right in the center of our Negro population, and comes as a worthy recognition of this splendid group of citizens at this strategic point in Somerset County, State of Maryland.

PROMINENT CITIZENS

Mr. E. Graham Waters, who has been appointed Postmaster for the new office known as Upper Hill, Md., had the most hearty sanction and cooperation of the leading white citizens of Somerset County, which fact was evinced in their ready endorsement, not only of Mr. Waters as Postmaster, but for the necessity of such a public measure and governmental policy for Upper Hill and its loyal citizens of the State and County.

Prominent among these white friends, may be worthily mentioned; Mr. Harry T. Phoebus, Senator O. E Weller, Mr. Burnie Dryden, Chairman of the State Central Committee, Mr. William E. Ward, Mr. James Hall, and most assuredly, Mr. James I. Dennis, our colored representative as a member of the State Central Committee and last but not least, Captain Ed. N. Wilson, the long standing leader of the race in Somerset County. The gentlemen composing the State Gentral Committee, unanimously endorsed the establishment of this new office.. The appointment of Mr. Graham Waters as Postmaster, is indeed a worthy honor bestowed, and puts our group under renewed obligations for such governmental responsibilities. As citizens, the people of our race variety feel a deep sense of gratitude for the unselfish affiliation and cooperation of our white fellow-citizens upon this question of public policy, with the highest motive for state and national loyalty in the discharge of public duty.

With the building of a substantial state road through this section, the installment of lights and telephone connections in this speindid section, the establishment of industrial plants to meet the demands of home industry, the opening of libraries and reading rooms and the facility of modern improvements, water works and proper sewerage for home comforts, and placing this village in touch with the pulsations and heartthrobs of the outside world, Upper Fairmount and particularly Upper Hill will become a most desirable spot in the state of Maryland, where life will be worth the while, and the splendid possibilities of its population, both black and white, will be fully realized. The realization of this dream is the deep desire of all and the fond hope of the future.

Upper Fairmount section, Maryland

MAYOR OF COLONY IN N. J. EXPLAINS 'JIM CROW' ACT

Points Out Commissioners As Ones Responsible For Present Conditions

HIGHLAND BEACH, Md., Aug 31.—The responsibility for stopping persons entering the summer resort here and questioning them as their destination, ancestrage, social position et cetera rests upon the commissioners of the village, according to a statement made public Wednesday by Mayor Edwin B. Henderson.

Whip 9-3-27

Personally, he said, he was opposed to discrimination in public places where it is based solely upon a man's color. He admitted however, the restricted use of the beach by residents and their home guests. He offered the suggestion to those who are said to have been slighted to register in one of the two hotels if they desired to swim in the Chesapeake Bay at this particular point.

Chicago Bee

The Beach

Highland Beach is a summer colony of the fashionable set from Washington, , Baltimore, Philadelphia and Altoona, Pa. ~~It is an incorporated~~ town. It has a commission form of government. Its commissioners are Mayor Edwin B. Henderson, Haley G. Douglass, Dr. Milton A. Francis Norman D. Murray and Mrs. James E. Walker. It has its cottages, modest and palatial. ~~It has two hotels~~ Ware's Hotel and the McKinley Manor.

Charge Discrimination

Recently there has been an attempt to prevent ordinary folks from entering the corporate limits. They were told that only residents or their guests had the right to use the streets. These persons charge that they were discriminated against because of a lack of ancestry, color, or social standing

This is not the first controversy that has waged about this town. There have been others. One concerned the right of the city commissioners to have trees in the streets cut down.

Another was similar to the present controversy. It was over the rights of the property owners to the use of the beach. In that dispute the commissioners took the view that the sale of lots with reference to a plat, on which appeared streets and the beach, has the effect of devoting the beach to the public use as an avenue. This was in accordance with a decision of the Maryland Superior Court.

Highland Beach, Md

Towns and Settlements-1929

Michigan.

Governor and Party Visit Idlewild

ILDEWILD, Mich., (ANP)—Sunday was an epoch-making day in the history of Idlewild, one of the most aristocratic and healthful resorts for Negroes in the United States. Dr. H. Franklin Bray, founder and pastor of Community Tabernacle, left no stone unturned in making pleasant the stay of Governor Green, Mrs. Green, and their party, having been invited to witness and take a part in the program of Sunday afternoon.

Governor Green Speaks

After rendering an excuse for his wife's not responding to welcome address, for which reason he gave, "Mrs. Green does all of the talking at home, and I do all away," he expressed the gratefulness for the hospitality and cordial welcome extended him and party by Idlewilders. "I am happy to be among my friends," and he added, "I'd like to be known by all, not for great work I've done, but for the reputation of being fair. The golden rule is his motto.

Governor Green delivered one of the most well-meaning, heartfelt addresses ever delivered by any member of the other race. He spoke of the progress already made by Negroes and the plans under way, for advancement.

He referred to Booker Washington, Frederick Douglass, Paul Laurence Dunbar, R. R. Moton, and DuBois, all leaders of the race, who have contributed much to the advancement of the group.

He dwelt upon the fact that withhi sconcluding remarks, he reviewed without faith, there is no foundation. In his faith and confidence in our people to continue in their lines of endeavor and "while rendering service to others," he added, "we are rendering service for God.

There were visitors whose homes included itinerary from coast to coast, whose countenances proved acceptance of this great message to our people from the Governor of Michigan.

Towns and Settlements-1930

Michigan.
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Success Of "Idlewild," Michigan's Famous Summer Resort, Suggests Growth Of Negro Leisure Class

Colony, Started 10 Years Ago, Now Ranks As Finest Place Of Its Kind In the Country. Boasts Many Home Owners.

Courier
10-11-30

DETROIT, Oct. 9—(ANP)—If hard times and unemployment are prevalent throughout Negro America, there were few evidences of their ravages in the attendance this year at Idlewild, the famous summer resort, which, its directors say, has just closed the most successful season in its existence.

Pittsburgh Pa.

Almost prenomenal has been the history of Idlewild. Born a scant ten years ago, located in northern Michigan, hundreds of miles from any large city or center of Negro population, being some two hundred seventy-five miles from Chicago and 250 miles from Detroit, it still attracts, despite its isolation, visitors from north, south, east and west, to whom the year seems incomplete without a week or a month having been spent in Idlewild.

Perhaps its perennial popularity is due to the substantial character of its summer population. Residents of Idlewild proper—that is, the township of Idlewild—have built 700 cottages, many of them pretty and costly modern affairs. Paradise, Idlewild Terrace and Idlewild Heights, more recent developments, which adjoin the original Idlewild, have 300 more dwellings, so that a thousand families have permanent investments in summer homes there. Too, one hundred and fifty folk now make their homes there the year around.

Such an aggregation populates a colony in itself, while the hundreds of visitors who come and go from the hotel or who visit friends in their homes add to the merry throngs who flee north to escape the heat and enjoy the pleasures of resort life.

A more beautiful bit of country it would be difficult to find. The entire section is dotted with lakes, in which the anglers try their luck, while bathing, canoeing, power boating, good fishing and kindred sports are at their very doors in Lake Idlewild, a rarely beautiful lake which winds around in four or five inlets with a shore line eight miles long. Forests of hemlock, pine and spruce add to the attractiveness of the spot and despite the hundreds of cottages, unless one is on the lake, it is difficult to see more than a dozen at once, so tucked away are they in the recesses of the woods.

The result is privacy, quiet and rest for those who desire it, while those who want the gaiety of social life find it in the hotel lobby or the clubhouse, in horseback riding, the bridge and whist tournaments on the broad veranda of the club, to which the ladies repair gowned and gloved as though they were on Grand boulevard or Sugar Hill, or in the nightly dances and frequent cabarets held in the great Purple Palace, or even in the one or two rather clever night clubs which have sprung up outside the limits of Idlewild itself.

For the more intellectual, a forum held each Sunday, at which many of America's noted men appear as speakers from time 'to time, with open discussion on topics of the day following, serves to punctuate the time.

Government at Idlewild is in the hands of the Idlewild Houseowners' Association, of which Mrs. C. S. Smith, president of the Michigan Federation of Women's Clubs and widow of the late Bishop Smith, is president. They promulgate the rules and laws by which the residents live. The Idlewild Improvement Association, which controls the public utilities and concessions, is composed of Dr. Daniel H. Williams, the well-known physician; Attorney W. R. Green and R. H. Riff of Cleveland; Alderman L. B. Anderson and David Manson of Chicago. On their shoulders rests the financial success of the resort. C. Pointer and M. Bohannon manage the hotel and clubhouse with the efficient Miss Lulu Allen, who in the winter is a librarian at Howard University, and Miss Bessie Smith, who teaches in Chicago's public schools, as assistant and hostess.

Perhaps the thing which strikes one most at Idlewild is the unmistakable class and gentility of those who visit it. It is too far from the cities to attract undesirables and the character of the permanent investors who own their cottages and are determined to maintain the standards of the place keep it on a high plane.

Good roads, a boon of the past two years; a new electric light system, and a modern speed-boat were among the features which added to the attractiveness of the resort this year.

Idlewild and its near neighbor, Woodland, are but two of a dozen resorts which are developing over the country—Highland Beach, Cedar Haven and Egg Harbor, in Maryland; Spring Lake, in New Jersey; the Saybrook Colony in Connecticut, and Buckroe Beach in Virginia, are among the spots which summer resorters are wont to gather at. It takes time and money to make summer playgrounds either necessary or successful so that the growth of these pleasure havens suggests a new and growing leisure class, made possible, perhaps, by a growing economic security and solidarity.

IDLEWILD GROWS AS RACE'S LEISURE CLASS INCREASES

Argus

10-10-30

Summer Resort in Out of Way Place in Michigan Provides Playground for the Prosperous

St. Louis, Mo.

HAS MANY FEATURES

Attractiveness of Country Is Hardly Surpassed by Any Other of Its Kind in U. S.

DETROIT, Oct. 9. — (ANP) If hard times and unemployment are prevalent throughout Negro America, there were few evidences of their ravages in the attendance this year at Idlewild, the famous summer resort, which its directors say has just closed the most successful season in its existence.

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Is Haven Of Beauty

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Towns and Settlements - 1927

Michigan and Wisconsin.

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Newnan, Ga., Herald

MAR 11 1927

Negro Colonies Starving Up North.

All is not well with the negroes who left the congenial clime of the South to seek the "pot of gold" at the end of the rainbow in the North. This is evidenced by the following article, which appeared in the Chrystal Falls (Mich.,) Diamond Drill of Jan. 29:

"One of the most pathetic conditions of poverty, laziness and suffering ever exposed in Iron county came to light when Sheriff Dickie and Carl Sholander, superintendent of the poor, visited the negro colony at Elmwood, in that county. Twenty-five people, nine of them children, were huddled into some old shacks, with no food, and in only one of the several small buildings was there wood enough on hand to keep a fire burning over night in the old shell of a stove that answered for the heating of the bulding. But the most agonizing condition was exposed in an old ramshackle barn, where a team of scrawny horses had been tied without food for over two weeks. One horse had died of hunger and lay behind the other starved shadow of a horse, still tied to the manger. The wood all about the horses, so far as they could reach, had been gnawed away and devoured as food by the suffering animals. The men cut the remaining animal loose and it staggered after every chip or anything that had a resemblance of food about it. The animal was too weak to survive, so Mr. Dickie ordered it shot to put it out of its suffering.

"Mr. Sholander bundled up one family of ten and shipped them back to Chicago, and it is probable that the others will follow inside of a few days.

"The colony has been at Elmwood all summer. The men started to get out some poplar pulpwood last spring, and toward the end of the summer they had succeeded in getting one car-load ready for shipment. They sat down and waited for the returns from that car-load before attempting any more work. What became of the proceeds is an enigma to them and a puzzle to the officers. It was thought that the payment was seized either by the person who sold them the land, or by those who furnished them food through the summer.

"The families were living in shacks clustered about the station at Elmwood. Mr. Sholander said he went through all of them, and in only one did he see enough wood cut ahead to keep fire during the night. There was plenty of wood all about in the shape of standing timber, but the men were averse to the exertion of cutting it. They would go out occasionally and rip a board off one of the old buildings for fuel."

COLONY OF NEGROES FROM CHICAGO IS FOUND STARVING

Tribune

1-24-27

Chicago, Ill.

Phelps, Wis., Jan. 23.—[Special.]—Conidtions among Negro families at Elmwood, Iron county, Michigan, have become so acute that the county has offered to furnish railway fare to Chicago for each member of the colony.

A recent investigation by Sheriff Dickie revealed that the Brule river settlement has become destitute to the point where many of the Negroes were starving and thir stock has been slaughtered for lack of food.

The families settled on the land, which they bought on the installment plan from a Chicago real estate firm with the conviction, it is alleged, that the real estate firm would buy all the pulp wood they would cut on the property. The settlers now claim the company took the wood for payment of installments and refused to advance money to furnish subsistence.

NEGROES STARVING IN WISCONSIN TOWN

Constitution

1-24-27

Atlanta, Ga.

(By Leased Wire to The Constitution and The Chicago Tribune.)

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Towns and Settlements - 1927

~~Wiscons~~in Michigan

ATLANTA, GA., Constitution

JAN 24 1927

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Elmwood Iron County

Towns and Settlements - 1921.

Mississippi.

N. Y. C. SUN
JULY 12, 1921

TOWN OF NEGROES HAS FETE.

South's Only Exclusive Block Settlement Celebrates Anniversary.

Mound Bayou

MOUND BAYOU, Miss., July 12.—The South's only exclusive negro town, peoplade and governed entirely by negroes, haded by I. L. Montgomery, only surviving body servant of Jefferson Davis, to-day was celebrating its thirty-fourth anniversary with an elaborate programme. Phil M. Brown, negro representative of the Department of Labor in Washington, was one of the speakers.

Mound Bayou, which has a population of approximately 800 negroes, was founded in 1887 by I. T. Montgomery and Benjamin T. Green, who died in 1896. Its growth and progress are due to the efforts largely of Montgomery one of the wealthiest negroes in the State. One of the recent additions to Mound Bayou was a $100,000 school building.

Towns and Settlements—1923

Mississippi

NEGRO TOWN WITHOUT A JAIL

Baltimore Herald 3/24/23

Mound Bayou, Mississippi, has not had a jail for the past twenty-five years. Mound Bayou is a Negro town with a $50,000 school, hospital, bank, Negro citizens only, and Negro city officials. "People are too busy to get into trouble," says Isaiah tgomery, the founder.

Towns and Settlements - 1923 Miss

Mound Bayou Developed In 35 Years From Wilderness

Building a Town for Negroes Only, Life Dream of Isaiah T. Montgomery, Is Realized in Mississippi Delta

12-Mile Area Blossoms

New York Age 8-26-22

One of the Finest Schools in State is Located at Mound Bayou--There Has Never Been Need For a Jail--No White Citizens There

(Times-Picayune, New Orleans).

Mound Bayou, Miss.—Thirty-five years ago, in July, the title to a tract of land twelve miles square in the very heart of the Mississippi Delta changed hands. Not an important event of interest in itself, but one that has grown to be of great interest to all the South. This land at that time was in a vast wilderness, covered by the forest primeval, and untouched by the hands of civilization, save that of the occasional hunter or trapper, the home of the black bear and the little panther. The only thing to remind one that civilization had marked this country for a wonderful awakening was the sound of the locomotive whistle on the Y. & M. V. railroad that had a year before penetrated this wilderness with its main line.

Today that twelve-mile area blossoms as a rose garden with achievements. Church spires raise their heads where once the mighty cypress threw its topmost branches heavenward. Splendid school buildings and handsome residences cover the ground once the site of cane brakes.

The vendor of this twelve mile stretch of wilderness was the aforesaid railroad company; the purchaser a Negro man who had only twenty-two years before been freed from slavery. But a man with a vision, a seer, who saw with the eyes of the prophet the only salvation of his race; a man with an ideal and understanding that surpassed the ordinary.

Site of Mound Bayou.

The site was the present site and surrounding country of Mound [illegible]ou, Volivar county, Mississippi.

The man Isaiah T. Montgomery, the former slave of Joseph E. Davis, elder brother of Jefferson Davis, president of the Southern Confederacy.

Mound Bayou, the town, has a thousand inhabitants and there is not a white man among them. The town officers, the business men, the physicians, the lawyers, school teachers and the station agent are Negroes, most of them having been born and reared in the town. The land, the richest alluvial land in the world, for six miles on each side, is owned and farmed by Negroes. A bale of long staple cotton per acre is the average crop. Prosperity, contentment and pride are there, and they have survived the financial crisis.

Asked why and how he conceived the idea of building a town and community solely for his race, Isaiah Montgomery, the former slave, and now in his seventy-sixth year attributes part of the original idea to Jeeffrson Davis, with whom he was much thrown in the Civil War. According to Montgomery, it was Mr. Davis' idea that the Negro must learn the responsibilities of citizenship by living them, by doing it with a goal to strive for, a purpose to accomplish. And Mound Bayou is the result of that idea.

A Fine School.

In this little city, builded and governed entirely by Negroes, is found one of the finest consolidated schools in the state. The building cost $45,000. There they teach practical agriculture, soil analysis, stock-growing and farm mechanics along with an English education. The girls are taught the art of cooking, sewing and housekeeping. The school is partially supported by the United States government. It is the one crowning success of Montgomery's efforts for his race. He is enthusiastic on vocational education. He is prouder of this school than of any other of the town's progress toward the teaching good citizenship to his race. He is chairman of the board of trustees.

One of the prettiest church buildings in the South it at Mound Bayou—The African Methodist Episcopal Church, Montgomery is chairman of its board of stewards. There is a bank at Mound Bayou and a cotton oil mill. Montgomery is president of both institutions. There is also a Carnegie library, a business men's club and a civic league.

Never Needed a Jail.

In its thirty-five years existence there hasn't been a murder committed in Mound Bayou by one of its citizens; there is no jail there. The founder of Mound Bayou, an African Negro without a trace of white blood in his veins, is highly respected by his country. An[illegible] this respect is reflected in the fact th[illegible] he was chosen, by popular vote, to represent his country in the Constitutio[illegible] Convention held in Mississippi in [illegible] long after white rule had been [illegible]tablished in the state.

He was later appointed collector of public monies for the State of Mississippi by President Roosevelt, and served the government well in that capacity.

Interest Is Keenly Alive.

Although seventy-six years old, Montgomery is keenly interested in present day affairs. His thousand-acre cotton farm is a model. But it isn't cotton alone that he grows. He practices diversification, and raises everything used on his farm. He gives this farm his personal attention; and a gold medal hangs in his library for having exhibited the best [illegible] f cotton at the Phila[illegible]phia exposition in 1876. Just a few days ago Montgomery and his wife, also an ex-slave, celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary in their new home. This new home, a handsome three-story building, is a replica of the old home of Jefferson Davis at his Brierfield plantation on the Mississippi River.

Montgomery is rich in reminiscences of the Old South. He was the house boy of the Davis family, a position of much importance among the slave boys. One of his duties was to meet the big, palatial passenger boats that plied the Mississippi River before the war for the mail and visitors to the "big house." He became well known to the captains and pilots of these floating palaces.

Mound Bayou a Heritage.

Soon after the Civil War Joseph Davis died and Jefferson Davis was made administrator of the estate of his brother, and Montgomery assisted Mr. Davis in his work, living for a while in the old plantation home of Jeff Davis. He now speaks of him as Mr. Jeff.

Montgomery has a good English education, the foundation of which was given by the "white folks" before the war. At his home in Mound Bayou hospitality of the bygone days of the South is found—the proverbial latchstring hanging on the outside for both races. His home is one of the interesting features to visitors to the South and it is seldom passed without an hour's chat with him and his wife. And one cannot leave them without a better understanding and appreciation of life's responsibilities, and an abiding faith in the philosophy that service to mankind brings the only true happiness.

It is Montgomery's dream that Mound Bayou will pass on to the new generation, serving as a model for the upbuilding of the Negro race, a nucleus for an education and growth that will elevate the Negro from the position of a menial to a citizen worthy in every way of this great country.

NO WHITE MAN IN WHOLE TOWN

BOSTON MASS. GLOBE
AUGUST 20, 1922

Founded by Ex-Slave, Its Thousand Negro Inhabitants Have Made It a Model

Thirty-five years ago in July the title to a tract of land, 12 miles square in the very heart of the Mississippi Delta changed hands. Not an important event of interest in itself, but one that has grown to be of great interest to all the South.

This land at that time was a vast wilderness and untouched by the hand of civilization, save that of the occasional hunter or trapper, the home of the black bear and the little panther. The only thing to remind one that civilization had marked this country for a wonderful awakening was the song of the locomotive whistle on the Y. & M. V. Railroad that had a year before penetrated this wilderness with its main line.

Today that 12-mile area blossoms as a rose garden with achievements. Church spires raise their heads where once the mighty cypress threw its topmost branches heavenward. Splendid school buildings and handsome residences cover the ground, once the site of cane brakes.

Slave of Jeff Davis' Brother

The vendor of this 12-mile stretch of wilderness was the aforesaid railroad company; the purchaser a negro man who had only 22 years before been freed from slavery. But a man with a vision, a seer, who saw with the eyes of the prophet the only salvation of his race; a man with an ideal and understanding that surpassed the ordinary.

The site was the present site and surrounding country of Mound Bayou, Bolivar County, Miss.

The man, Isaiah T. Montgomery, the former slave of Joseph E. Davis, elder brother of Jefferson Davis, president of the Southern Confederacy.

Mound Bayou, the town, has a thousand inhabitants and there is not a white man among them. The town officers, the business men, the physicians, the lawyers, school teachers and the station agent are negroes, most of them having been born and reared in the town.

The land, the richest alluvial land in the world, for six miles on each side, is owned and farmed by negroes. A bale of long staple cotton per acre is the average crop. Prosperity, contentment and pride are there, and they have survived the financial crisis.

Town Needs No Jail

In this little city, builded and governed entirely by negroes, is found one of the finest consolidated schools in the State. The building cost $45,000. There they teach practical agriculture, soil analysis, stock-growing and farm mechanics along with an English education. The girls are taught the art of cooking, sewing and housekeeping. The school is partially supported by the United States Government.

It is the one crowning success of Montgomery's efforts for his race. He is enthusiastic on vocational education. He is prouder of this school than of any other of the town's progress toward the teaching good citizenship to his race. He is chairman of the board of trustees.

One of the prettiest church buildings in the South is at Mound Bayou—the African Episcopal Church, South. Montgomery is chairman of its board of here are a bank at Moun a cotton oil mill. Mont president of both institutions. e also a Carnegie library, a usiness men's club and a civic league.

In its 35 years existence there hasn't been a murder committed in Mound Bayou by one of its citizens; there is no jail there.

The founder of Mound Bayou, an African negro without a trace of white blood in his veins, is highly respected by his country. And this respect is reflected in the fact that he was chosen, by popular vote, to represent his county in the Constitutional Convention held in Mississippi in 1890, long after white rule had been re-established in the State.

Not Ready For Votes

It was this convention that inserted in the organic laws of the State the famous "grandfather clause" disenfranchising the negro in the State of Mississippi. Montgomery was a member of the franchise committee; he voted and made a speech on the floor of the convention favoring the passage of the disfranchising act. He stated in his speech that the negro was not prepared for the ballot, that the right of suffrage carried with it a responsibility too heavy for the negro, that the time would come when he could intelligently exercise this right, but that it must come through years of education and training.

He was later appointed collector of public monies for the State of Mississippi by President Roosevelt and served the Government well in that capacity.

Although 76 years old, Montgomery is keenly interested in present day affairs. His 1000-acre cotton farm is a model. But it isn't cotton alone that he grows. He practices diversification and raises everything used on his farm. He gives this farm his personal attention, and a gold medal hangs in his library for having exhibited the best bale of cotton at the Philadelphia exposition in 1876.

Just a few days ago Montgomery and his wife, also an ex-slave, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in their new home. This new home, a handsome three-story building, is a replica of the old home of Jefferson Davis at his Brierfield plantation on the Mississippi River.

House Like Jeff Davis'

Montgomery is rich in reminiscences of the Old South. He was the house boy of the Davis family, a position of much importance among the slave boys. One of his duties was to meet the passenger boats that plied the Mississippi River before the war for the mail and visitors to the "big house." He became well known to the captains and pilots of these floating palaces.

Soon after the Civil War Joseph Davis died and Jefferson Davis was made administrator of the estate of his brother, and Montgomery assisted Mr Davis in this work, living for a while in the old plantation home of Jeff Davis. He now speaks of him as Mr Jeff.

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war.

At his home in Mound Bayou hospitality of the bygone days of the South is found — the proverbial latchstring hanging on the outside for both races. His home is one of the interesting features to visitors to the South, and it is seldom passed without an hour's chat with him and his wife.

It is Montgomery's dream that Mound Bayou will pass on to the new generation, serving as a model for the upbuilding of the negro race, a nucleus for an education and growth that will elevate the negro from the position of a menial to a citizen worthy in every way of this great country.—New Orleans Times-Picayune.

Thriving Negro Village Founded by Former Slave

BOROUGH OF BRONX NEWS
DECEMBER 18, 1922

A town that is a monument to a man is Mound Bayou, Bolivar County, Miss., known for many years as the most successful experiment in the complete segregation of Negroes in the United States, and the first Negro community in the country to incorporate.

It was in 1898, some years after the little village had been started in the midst of the fertile flatlands of the Mississippi Delta, that its founders asked and received their charter. Isaiah T. Montgomery was in his vigorous middle years then; as a sturdy patriarch he is still the moving spirit of the place, and his 75 years sit lightly on his straight shoulders.

It was Montgomery who conceived the idea of a home in the Delta for his people, who came with a few others into the wilderness that was then Bolivar County, who led all the work that brought Mound Bayou into life, and has since continued as fatherly adviser to the up and coming younger generation who are continuing the success of the community, writes Hershel Brickell in the New York Evening Post.

2,000 Negroes Live Here

Upwards of 2,000 Negroes live in Mound Bayou. Near by are two other smaller Negro towns, which are offshoots of Montgomery's village, equally successful in their attempt to have the colored race work out its destiny without outside interference. There are handsome churches in Mound Bayou, a new school that cost $100,000, which would be a credit to any comunity, a straggling row of small buildings for a "Main street," and homes of many degrees, with the new three-story brick house of Montgomery's a notable feature of the landscape, in a country where brick houses are very rare.

The handsome new school, supposed to serve a large territory, is not in full use yet, but Montgomery is sanguine of its success in time. Trucks must be used to bring the pupils in and carry them home, and these have not as yet been provided.

In Jeff Davis' Office

It was as the property of Joseph E. Davis, brother of Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederacy, that Montgomery began his life. A bright boy, he had the good fortune to be brought to the "big house" on the plantation owned by the Davises, and when he was nine years old Jefferson Davis took him into his office on the plantation, where he remained as a valued worker until the outbreak of the Civil War. Montgomery joined the Federal forces at the first opportunity, served as cabin boy for Admiral David Porter at the battle of Vicksburg, and saw other service before the four years of strife was over.

Years followed when Montgomery sat in the Mississippi Legislature, when he operated a cotton plantation, said at that time to be the third largest in the world and when he finally went into business near Vicksburg, where he still was when most of the rich lands of the Mississippi Delta fell into the hands of railway companies, whose owners cast about at once for means to colonize this great territory. One of them broached to Montgomery the subject of establishing a town exclusively for Negroes, and an investigation resulted in fixing its site at Mound Bayou, where an ancient Indian mound still stands between two sluggish bayous.

The earlier hardships are dim memories to Montgomery now; there must have been many, for the country was wild and uncivilized, full of savage animals, and without any comforts. Now it is rich and well cultivated; its white people educated, prosperous, and happy, and willing to share success with their colored neighbors.

One of the largest Delta planters said of Mound Bayou: "There isn't a more law-abiding community in the state. The Negroes always have behaved themselves, and, I believe, have had the friendship and support of the white people about them in their effort to build up an exclusively Negro settlement."

Towns and Settlements-1924.

Mis

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Mound Bayou, Miss., Has Never Operated a Jail

Mound Bayou, Miss., a city composed of all members of our group has a $50,000 school, hospital and a bank. It has not had a jail for the past 25 years. The officials of the city say that the people are too busy to get into trouble.

Mound Bayou was founded by Isaiah T. Montgomery and is said to be one of the most industrious cities in the South.

Cleveland Gazette 1-1-24

KELLY MILLER SAYS

The Negro is best off in the large city or in the open country. In the small town ranging from 500 to 3,000, he is almost wholly without function. The poorer whites monopolize about all the profitable lines of employment. There are few who are able to employ Negro household servants. The remnants of the race loiter around the outer edge of things without any fixed place or life in the community.

ISAIAH T. MONTGOMERY

Isaiah T. Montgomery, the founder of Mound Bayou, Mississippi, is dead.

He represented the best developed product of slavery, under its mild, patriarchal form. His father before him was a good and faithful servant in the household of Joe Davis, the brother of Jefferson Davis, President of the Southern Confederacy.

The elder Montgomery was intelligent, faithful and devoted to the welfare of his owner who intrusted him with the overseership of his large estate. Isaiah T. Montgomery grew up in this congenial and complaisant environment. He knew nothing of the hardship and cruel usage of slavery. At an early age he was taught the use of letters and assigned to clerical task in the household.

The overthrow of slavery did not effect any violent change of relationship between the master and the man. The elder Montgomery and his son engaged to buy the plantations of Joe and Jefferson Davis for the magnificient sum of three hundred thousand dollars. It was the stipulated request of the owners, as it was the sincere purpose of the purchasers to hold the former slaves together under benevolent and kindly supervision to which they had been accustomed. The Montgomeries failed in their ambitious undertaking when the inflation prices of the recent war settled down to a normal basis. The estate was returned to the former owners to the satisfaction and honor of all concerned.

prudent to place upon the ballot and that they be applied to white and black. He yielded to the policy of limited franchise but insisted upon equal enforcement.

DENOUNCED BY DOUGLASS

His genial and complaisant contact with the aristocratic class of his day and generation rendered him too trustful of the less liberalised element that was then clutching for political power. Frederick Douglass and the reigning Negro politicians of his day, denounced him as being a traitor to his race.

This is a handy term which we are too prone to use against those with whom we are in temporary disagreement. But Mr. Montgomery lived long enough to live all of this down. All are now willing to concede that he did at the time what he thought was best for his race. The development of events fails to reveal that any different attitude would have yielded better results.

Afro American 4-8-24

4-18-24

Towns and Settlements-1926

Mississippi

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FIRE DESTROYS MOUND BAYOU

Afro American

Baltimore, Md.

Baltimore Man's Auto Saved From Garage

Mound Bayou, Miss.—Mound Bayou. Mississippi, founded by I. T. Montgomery and B. T. Green, was the scene of the most disastrous fire in its history, when the Booze Mercantile Company, the center of trade, and the largest establishment in town, was totally destroyed at 2:00 A. M., January 9th.

Other businesses were destryoed in addition including the Post Office, a barber shop, restaurant, garage and warerooms filled with large quantities of hay, coal, etc. The Booze Mercantile Company carried a large stock of clothing, dry goods, groceeries, hardware and farm implements. It was partially covered by insurance and will be rebuilt.

Due to the foresight of Mayor B. A. Green and the board of aldermen in recently securing a motor driven chemical fire truck, much other business property was saved.

The fire originated in the accounting department of the mercantile company in some unknown manner. All autos in the garage were saved among which was a Buick roadster owned by Mr. J. J. Quarles of Baltimore, Md., who is at present in Mound Bayou on business.

MOUND BAYOU SWEPT BY FIRE

Largest Mercantile Concern Destroyed

Negro World

2-6-26

Mound Bayou, Miss., Jan. 15.—On January 9th, Mound Bayou, one of the few towns almost entirely occupied and run by colored people, was swept by a very destructive fire. Its largest business establishment, the Booze Mercantile Co., was completely destrowed, together with other business concerns, including a barber shop, restaurant and the postoffice.

New York

The Booze Mercantile Co. was the heaviest loser, carrying at the time a big stock of hardware, farming tools, groceries, dry goods, etc. The building and stock were partly insured.

The fire had its origin in the accounting department of the Booze store, the cause of which has not yet been determined.

J. J. Quarles of Baltimore, Md., visiting the city at the time, kept his car in the garage at the big store, with other high-priced cars—all escaping without damage.

Mound Bayou was founded by Isiah Montgomery and B. T. Green, and is considered the most progressive Negro town in America.

Mound Bayou, Miss., Pioneer Negro Town, Is Coming Into a New Sphere Of Commercial and Social Activity

Oil Mill In Operation, Bank To Be Reopened and Population Shows Steady Increase—Center of Largest Staple Cotton Raising County In The World

New York Age

6-26-26

New York, N.Y.

With the passing away of Montgomery, Banks and Francis, Mound Bayou, Miss., seemed to have fallen into a slump so far as further growth was concerned, but that condition was only temporary, and now the original Negro town is again coming into its own, says Eugene P. Booze, whose wife was the only daughter of the founder of the town, the late Isaiah T. Montgomery.

While in New York on a trip in which he combined business and pleasure, Mr. Booze talked freely to an Age representative concerning the growth and development and present condition of Mound Bayou. He explained the apparent apathy that seemed to settle upon the town, after the deaths of three of the men most responsible for putting the community on the map, attributing it to the wave of financial depression which swept over the country just about that time, in which land values were perhaps harder hit than anything else.

To this was coupled the fact that cotton took a tremendous drop, and as this is the Delta's principal crop and most valuable resource, the little Negro town was naturally affected to an unusual degree. A contributing factor also was the migration of many of the best families of the town, who saw greater opportunities in the North and West.

Takes On New Life.

But these conditions are being eliminated, says Mr. Booze, and the addition to the town's population of many other families from less-favored sections has brought Mound Bayou back almost to its normal number of citizens. An indication of this is seen in the recent fluctuation of postal receipts in the Mound Bayou post-office. The postmaster's salary is based on the amount of business done, and the highest salary ever reached was $1,800. But following the depression referred to, in 1920-22, the salary dropped to $1,200. Now increased business to the present has carried the salary to $1,600, and prospects are that the highest mark will soon be reached and overpassed.

One element contributing to this condition is the fact that with no banking facilities available, the bulk of money transference is done through the post-office. And the Postal Savings Bank is largely patronized, carrying the largest deposits in Boliver County.

To Reopen Bank

The failure of the original Mound Bayou bank in 1922 was a severe blow in many respects, but the building and fixtures are intact, being the property of Mr. Booze and the mayor of the town, B. A. Green, and these men are arranging to reopen the bank in the fall. It is to be chartered under the Mississippi banking law, with a capital stock of $20,000, surplus of $5,000 and an opportunity will be afforded investors to purchase stock in the bank at $125 per share.

The crops this year have been menaced, said Mr. Booze, by a long continued drought, but this was broken just a few days ago by a general rain throughout the Delta section which saved the corn and forage crops and gave the cotton an impetus toward attaining full growth. The farmers grow little in the way of forage crops, he said, since they can buy oats and other forage cheaper than they can raise it. The climatic and soil conditions in the Delta are responsible, it seems, being more adapted to cotton raising than anything else.

Oil Well In Operation

Industrial activities, badly crippled by failure of the bank and of the oil mill, are taking on a more favorable aspect. The oil mill, bought in at a forclosure sale by a white company headed by B. B. Harvey of Memphis, has been operating for the past two years, giving employment to a large number of Negro workers. The management and superintendent are white, but the working force is colored. The present owners have promised to resell to the colored people at any time the money is available.

One pleasing feature, dwelt upon at length by Mr. Booze, is that the whites throughout the Delta are most favorably disposed toward the Negro community. Their interest is partly selfish, it is true, for with a large group of law-abiding, industrious people in town and vicinity, there is a constant available supply of industrial labor, ready to be called upon for help in any emergency.

And another feature of interest is that Mound Bayou casts a large vote in most elections, and on questions which are not controlled by the white primary the town's vote is usually the deciding factor.

The Town's Officers

The town officials are: B.A. Green, mayor; John Thomas, town marshall; Fred L. Booze, treasurer; City Council—J. W. Covington, town clerk; R. B. Davis, vice-mayor; R. W. Jones, Stephen Cohn and T. W. Cook. Mr. Cook was the architect and builder of the oil mill structures. Mayor Green is Harvard Law School graduate, class of 1916, and was a cousin to Mr. Montgomery, the town's founder.

Yazoo and Mississippi Valley Railroad office is in charge of R. W. Jones, brother to the postmaster, and he is also agent for the American Express Co. Mrs. Jones is his assistant, and he has a clerk and porter on his roll. There is no telegraph office, but a splendid telephone exchange is operated most efficiently, with Miss Cornella Marr in charge, John Marr, her brother, being the night operator.

Well-Equipped Public School

A public school carrying from 1st to 12th grades, with a principal and twelve teachers, occupies a building erected in 1919 at a cost of $115,000. John H. Powell, formerly of Alcorn College, is the principal. Through the Smith-Hughes Act, the government maintains an agricultural agent at the school, and the General Education Board of New York support a teachers' training department. Home economics are a part of the curriculum, and so high is the standard of work in this school which gives a full 4-years' high school course, that its graduates are given state licenses to teach without further examination.

The first brick church to be erected in Bolivar County was that of the First Baptist Church, of which the Rev. Mr. W. E. Bradford is the pastor. At present, the most imposing house of worship is the Bethel A. M. E. Church, the only congregation which has a large pipe organ. The Rev. S. W. Foster is the pastor. Other churches are the Mt. Olivet Baptist, the Rev. R. A. Scott, the Christian Church, the Rev. K. R. Brown, pastor, and Protestant Episcopal mission of which the Rev. S. A. Morgan of Vicksburg is the priest in charge, coming to Mound Bayou once a month to hold service.

The bottling works owned and operated by R. B. Davis, handling all kinds of soft drinks, is the best equipped in the state. And incidentally, the baseball team of the Mound Bayou Baseball Association has only lost five of 27 games, played with teams from the leading educational institutions of the state and from other communities. The home games are played in a well kept park, with covered grand-stands, and the games are patronized by all classes of citizens, white as well as colored, coming from all sections of the country.

Biggest Cotton County

Mr. Booze cited figures to show that Bolivar County is the largest staple cotton growing county in the world, producing some 140,000 bales of the white fleece each year. And of this crop, Mound Bayou, with 30,000 acres, raises some 12,000 bales, or nearly 9 per cent. of the county total. And as the Mound Bayou cotton is grown mostly by owners of the land, it is picked with more care than is usual with hired cotton-pickers, and as a result this cotton always comes out clean and free from dirt, commanding a premium of from one to two cents a pound in the market.

Three cotton gins in the community are unable to handle the entire crop by fifty per cent. At least half of it has to be transported to gins in other communities. The largest gin is operated by the estate of the late I. T. and M. R. Montgomery, under management of Mr. Booze; the next in size is owned by the Farmers' Gin Co., and the other by P. R. Macarty. Plans are being laid to increase the ginning capacity of the community.

Among the men who have taken up the work laid down by Montgomery, Banks and Francis, seeking to carry Mound Bayou to high ranking in civic, commercial, religious and social activities, are: P. R. and R. M. Macarty, O. C. Christmas, C. F. Bolton, Jim Jones, B. W. Byram, M. A. Lee, and others. Among the most important financial influences are the estate of the late B. T. Green, now managed by Mayor Green, who was B. T.'s brother, and the I. T. and M. R. Montgomery estate, managed by Eugene P. Booze, the son-in-law.

Towns and Settlements-1927

Mississippi

EUGENE BOOZE AND WIFE ARRESTED, CHARGED WITH MURDERING ISAIAH T. MONTGOMERY

(By Staff Correspondent)

Cleveland, Miss., Aug. 10.—This town received a shock which was felt throughout the state of Mississippi, Thursday afternoon when Eugene P. Booze and his wife, Mrs. Mary Booze were arrested on a charge of murdering, by poisoning, Isaiah T. Montgomery, the father of Mrs. Booze and the founder of Mound Bayou, Mississippi.

Reporter
8-13-27
Birmingham
Ala.

Mr. Montgomery died three years ago and the charge brought against his daughter and her husband was a distinct shock to the town which he founded, and which celebrated its fortieth anniversary a few weeks ago. Mrs. Booze was exceedingly fond of her father and Mr. Booze was considered one of the closest friends of the Mississippian.

Both Prominent

Mrs. Booze is active in civic affairs throughout the state and holds the honor of being the National Republican Committee-woman of the State. She has, at all times, taken a great interest in the development of Mound Bayou, which was a pet project of her father and friends can see no reason why she would commit or be a party to the deed which has been attributed to her.

Her husband, Eugene P. Booze, named as a party in the crime, is one of the most enterprising and ambitious men in the state of Mississippi. He was an ardent worker in the campaign which led to his wife's election as National Republican Committee-Woman and many claim that he is the power behind the throne in all her efforts. During the flood, Mr. Booze was especially active and headed the committee in the County of Bolivar and through his influence several nurses were employed to work in the camp located at Cleveland, Miss., and one Negro physician.

Booze Was Factor in Bayou Development

According to those who are near, Mr. Montgomery met Mr. Booze in Denver, Colo., where the latter had gone from his home in Natchez, Miss., for his health. Attracted by the business acumen of Booze, Mr. Montgomery sought to influence him to come to Mound Bayou, which he did. After marrying Miss Mary Montgomery, the daughter of Mr. Montgomery, Mr. Booze took a prominent part in the development of Mound Bayou, and many declare that he was largely responsible for the present economic status of the town. At one time he developed a co-operative cotton growing and marketing movement, which warranted the support of the late Senator McKinley, of Illinois, and which was of much benefit to the farmers of this section.

The informed further expressed the opinion that Mr. and Mrs. Booze are the victims of a frame-up designed to reflect discredit upon Mrs. Booze is National Republican Committee-Woman and are pointing to the persistent efforts made by inimical forces to embarrass Perry W. Howard, National Republican Committeeman. For this reason, the political angle has been injected into the affair.

Died at Age of 77

Mr. Montgomery died at the age of 77. He was born on Hurricane Plantation in 1847, and served as a sort of private secretary to Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederacy. He stepped into the limelight when he purchased the strip of land, which is now Mound Bayou and developed it into one of the most progressive towns in the state.

Mound Bayou, which stands a monument to the memory of its founder, boasts of being an ALL-NEGRO town, having all Negro officials, Negro citizens and everything Negro. One unique feature of the town is that there is no jail. The town has many flourishing business enterprises and bids fair to continue its growth for years to come.

At the time of his death there was no suspicion as to his passing being due to any but natural causes. He had lived a vigorous and active life and had passed the proverbial threescore and ten years. He was wealthy and according to reports, so is his son-in-law, who is now charged with being his murderer. The trial is expected to be fraught with sensation but the friends of the family feel certain that Mr. and Mrs. Booze will be vindicated.

ALL-NEGRO TOWN FORTY YEARS OLD

Mound Bayou, Miss., to Celebrate Anniversary of Founding by Former Slaves

Advertiser
7-11-27
Montgomery
Ala.

MOUND BAYOU, MISS., July 10.—(AP)—Mound Bayou, an all-negro town of 1,800 inhabitants, will celebrate the fortieth anniversary of its founding on Tuesday with a picnic and speechmaking. Negroes from a 100-mile radius are expected.

Organized in 1877 by Isaiah T. Montgomery, a former slave belonging to Jefferson Davis, president of the Confederacy, the town has grown from a community of 16 families to a thriving municipality that boasts a $100,000 brick school, a $40,000 African Methodist Episcopal church, a $20,000 Baptist church, a Carnegie library, two imposing brick residences and a number of well constructed frame structures.

One building the town hasn't had is a jail. A lone town marshal patrols the streets, but seldom is there an arrest.

Everything is controlled by negroes. There is a mayor and board of aldermen, duly elected, a postmaster, two postal clerks, and a rural mail carrier. A chamber of commerce composed of young negro business men has just been organized. Farming is the principal industry of this unique community, in which not a white person resides. The nearest town is Merigold, three miles to the south.

"A community of this sort seems to promote a better relationship between the two races," B. F. Brooks, executive secretary of the chamber of commerce, said. "We are able to work out the idea that the south is the best place for our people. The best spirit of cooperation exists with our white neighbors."

NEWS

Naugatuck
Conn

MAY 3 1927

A Kind Little Negro Town

Among the heart-touching stories coming out of the flood is the news of the heroism of the little town of Mound Bayou, Miss. The 1,600 inhabitants of that community are all negroes, excepting only the railroad station master.

Mound Bayou, having escaped flood waters itself, has been the haven of more than a thousand refugees—almost as many as the town's own population. The natives of the little town have taken care of all the flood sufferers who have come to it for help. When the only local physician died, two weeks ago, the Red Cross sent in two colored physicians. All other services have been provided by Mound Bayou citizens at their own expense.

ALL-NEGRO TOWN WILL CELEBRATE FOUNDING TUESDAY

7-11-27

Mound Bayou, Miss., July 10.—(AP) Mound Bayou, an all-negro town of 1,800 inhabitants, will celebrate the 40th anniversary of its founding on Tuesday with a picnic and speechmaking. Negroes from a 100-mile radius are expected.

Organized in 1877 by Isaiah T. Montgomery, a former slave belonging to Jefferson Davis, president of the Confederacy, the town has grown from a community of 16 families to a thriving municipality that boasts a $100,000 brick school, a $40,000 African Methodist Episcopal church, a $20,000 Baptist church, a Carnegie library, two imposing brick residences and a number of well-constructed frame structures.

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National Committee Woman Freed Of Murder Charge

(By CLAUDE BARNETT ANP)

ROSEDALE, Miss.— (By Claude Barnett, ANP)— "Case dismissed [illegible] of evidence" was the decision of [illegible] Peace [illegible] Arnold sitting in the County court here today in disposing of the now celebrated poison-murder case.

Mrs. Mary C. Booze of Mound Bayou, National Committeewoman for Mississippi, her husband E. P. Booze, political power, big planter and member of the executive committee of the National Negro Business League, had been charged together with 27 year old Postmaster C. V. Thurmond and his wife, Beatrice as well as Ben A. Green, Jr., 38 year old Mayor and Harvard Law graduate, with complicity in the murder of Isaiah T. Montgomery, famous founder of Mound Bayou, the "all Negro city," an intimate friend of Booker T. Washington and a former slave of the brother of Jefferson Davis of rebellion fame.

The five defendants had been arrested ten days ago as a result of affidavits filed by Estelle Montgomery, one of the three living sisters of Mrs. Booze and S. H. Branch a detective from Little Rock, who had "worked up" the case. The decision was rendered within two minutes after court had opened and District Attorney John T. Smith of Cleveland, Miss., had arisen and notified the court that he had gone over the evidence and found it insufficient to "travel on." He therefore with the consent of county prosecutor Fred Clark asked that the defendants be released.

Bitter Fight

Citizens of Mound Bayou attributed the charges to the bitter fight which Miss Montgomery, who resumed her maiden name after her separation from "Dick" Kent, widely known, pool room, baseball and taxi cab owner in St. Louis, had waged against Eugene P. Booze, administrator of her father's estate.

"I gave the newspapers a written statement on it in 1924 and told them of the destruction and plundering of my father's estate. I have written the N. A. A. C. P. and Vice-President Dawes about it. I'm not thru. The Montgomery estate is the foundation upon which Mound Bayou rests and its passing to white men will bring destruction upon Mound Bayou."

MOUND BAYOU CELEBRATES 40th ANNIVERSARY

MOUND BAYOU, Miss., July 14.—Mound Bayou, all-Negro town of 1800 inhabitants, celebrated the fortieth anniversary of its founding with a picnic and speech making Monday afternoon. The town has a Negro mayor, police officer, no jail, a Negro City Council. Farming is the principal industry. Everything is controlled by men of color. The town was organized by Isaiah T. Montgomery.

~~NATIONAL COMMITTEE WOMAN~~ FREED OF MURDER CHARGE

Rosedale, Miss., Aug. 14.—(Staff Correspondence.) — "Case dismissed for lack of evidence" was the brief decision of Justice of Peace Robert Arnold, sitting in the county court here today, in disposing of the now celebrated poison-murder case in which Mrs. Mary C. Booze of Mound Bayou, ~~National Committeewoman~~ for Mississippi, her husband, E. P. Booze, political power, big planter and member of the executive committee of the National Negro Business League, had been charged together with 27-year-old Postmaster C. V. Thurmond and his wife, Beatrice, as well as Ben A. Green, Jr., 38-year-old mayor and Harvard law graduate with complicity in the murder of Isaiah T. Montgomery, famous founder of Mound Bayou, the "all Negro City," an intimate of Booker T. Washington and a former slave of the brother of Jefferson Davis of rebellion fame.

The five defendants had been arrested ten days ago as a result of affidavits filed by Estelle Montgomery, one of the three living sisters of Mrs. Booze and S. H. Branch, a colored detective from Little Rock, who had "worked up" the case. The decision was rendered within two minutes after court had opened and District Attorney John T. Smith of Cleveland, Miss., had arisen and notified the court that he had gone over the evidence and found it insufficient to "travel on." He, therefore, with the consent of County Prosecutor Fred Clark, asked that the defendants be released.

Wide interest had developed in the case which startled the entire country when the charges were filed last week. The arrests took place on Thursday. Each of the defendants gave bond in the sum of one thousand dollars and denied ever hearing before any intimation that the aged Montgomery, who was 74 years old when he died in March, 1924, had come to his death from other than natural causes.

Citizens of Mound Bayou attributed the charges to the bitter which Miss Montgomery, who resumed her maiden name after her separation from "Dick" Kent, widely known pool room, baseball and taxicab owner in St. Louis, had waged against Eugene P. Booze, administrator of her father's estate. Intense feeling in which opinion of the people of Mound Bayou had been sharply divided, with partisans on both sides, has marked the family dissension. She charges Booze with looting the estate and permitting white people to get control of much of it. Originally it was estimated to be worth $150,000 but is said to have been heavily involved.

Miss Montgomery and Detective Branch still insist that their story is true and contend that the failure of their effort was due to a change of front on the part of the doctor who attended Mr. Montgomery's body exhumed and examined. She is said to be without means and rumors in Mound Bayou are that her activities are being financed by white political enemies of Mr. Booze, in order to embarrass him and his wife.

Mr. Booze, in a statement, said that he regretted the case had not gone to trial so that whatever charges might have been filed could have been refuted in open court. "This is a dastardly attempt to besmirch my reputation and hamper the work of my wife," he said. He attributed the inclusion of Mayor Green, Postmaster Thurmond and his wife to a plot to intimidate his friends but said that he felt only sorry for his sister-in-law whom he regarded as misguided. Mrs. Booze was the recipient of numerous letters

NATIONAL COMMITTEEWOMAN FREE OF MURDER CHARGE

(Continued from Page 1)

and offers of assistance from political friends of prominence, among them being Hon. Wm. Butler, chairman of the Republication National Committee; Charles Hilles, Committeeman from New York and Mrs. A. T. Hert, Vice-Chairman of the Republican National Committee.

This Clippi[illegible] Miss,
ALBANY, GA. HERALD.
AUG 1 1927

Reminiscent or Historical Observations

Personal and Impersonal

By JOSEPH S. DAVIS

Mound Bayou, Miss.

An interesting item, carried last week by the papers, served by the Associated Press was that Mound Bayou, Miss., a town of 1,800 negro population, exclusively, had held its 40th anniversary. To the distinguished president of the Confederacy was accorded the credit of promoting by suggesting and encouraging this town. To Isaac I. Montgomery, a former slave of Mr. Jefferson Davis, was given the credit of founding and promoting successfully this community.

There is a negro town in Oklahoma of a more recent establishment; where like Mound Bayou, no white resident is allowed, and if one visits the community he is advised that no white person is allowed to stay over night in the place.

Mound Bayou is said to be a community of polite and courteous residents. Perhaps, they are imbued unconsciously with the spirit of courtesy that so admirably characterized Mr. Davis. On one occasion, Mr. Davis and a white companion, while walking the streets of his home town, met a negro man who lifted his hat very respectfully, and Mr. Davis acknowledged the courtesy by lifting his. The companion said to Mr. Davis: "Do you lift your hat to negroes?"

"Why, yes, sir. I suffer no man to be more polite than I."

It is very likely that Mr. Davis suggested the experiment of a negro town at the time when black Bishop Turner, of the A. M. E. colored church, and John Temple Graves, one of the most elegant and forceful writers Georgia ever produced were joined in a widespread effort to influence the negroes to emigrate to Liberia, or some other African port of missing negro men. Our colored friends in this section were deeply stirred, and we received a delegation of conference on the subject.

We then vigorously and vociferously opposed the idea, and have never changed our mind, though many changes, that were unforseen, have occurred and militated, regretfully. We have been surprised and the country has really suffered from the migration of so many.

We once, in a talk to the patrons of a colored school, took occasion to refer to the providence of God that brought the Africans in slavery to America. Contrastin gthe contented happy looking contingent of ex-slaves sitting within the sound of our voice, so well and comfortably clothed, with a like number of negroes in darkest Africa, we pointed out the benefits of being brought into the light of American civilization. In Africa they would be, as always, like the mahogany trees of that region of earth, of great intrinsic value, but of no practical use to the world or progressive service to themselves. Here they enjoyed many blessings that they could never hope for. As surely as God was the great ruler and director of creation, He willed that, even through the wrong of slavery, they should be beneficieries of His blessing.

The Liberia experiment has practically failed. It may in future develop into a wise movement, but we doubt it. The negro needs the precept and example and constant contact with the dominant white to lift him out of the sloughs into which it so easy to fall.

Well, the community of Mound Bayou is a success. Its residents have all the modern conveinences and conditions of living, and are most comfortable. They have their business enterprises, schools, churches, telephones, banks and all the accompaniments of civilized progress. They enjoy the influence of near neighborhoods of whites and they profit by their example, and find object lessons in the community life of the aspiring towards that ideal of life and living that makes this mortal existence more worth while.

Monitor
[illegible] Wash
MAY 27 1927

NO COLOR LINE

Mound Bayou, a little Mississippi town of 1600 people, all negroes, has made a place in history. This little town is on high ground, and escaped the flood ravages of the district. But over 1000 refugees went to the town to escape drowning, and the negro citizens have taken care of them, at their own expense, providing physicians, food and clothing. Heroism does not know a color line.

Says the Bee-Nugget—and to which the Monitor, with a whole heart, adds—"Amen." Is there not fine heroism and chivalry in such an act as this?

GAZETTE
Stillwater, Minn
JUL 1927

There is a ~~negro~~ village in Mississippi, Mound Bayou, with a population of about 1800, which was founded by a former slave of Jefferson Davis, about forty years ago. Recently it celebrated its fortieth birthday. It has a $100,000 brick public school, a $40,000 African Methodist Episcopal church, a $20,000 Baptist church, a Carnegie library, two private houses of brick, no jail, one policeman, few arrests. All officials, mayor postmaster, chamber of commerce, are Negroes.

Towns Settlements - 1928

Mississippi.

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Mound Bayou

Hawkinsville, Ga., Dispatch & News
Thursday, September 13, 1928

Negro Community Hasn't Need of Jail

Mound Bayou, Miss.—Abolishing the town jail as a "needless expense," this community of 1,000 negroes boasts a record of not more than one arrest for six years and a lapse of twenty years since a slaying.

When citizens gathered recently to celebrate the forty-first anniversary of the founding of the town there was included in the group doctors, lawyers, educators and many other professional men who had grown to manhood and taken up their callings in the little farming community.

Founded in 1887

Mound Bayou was founded in 1887 by Isaiah T. Montgomery, former slave and body guard of Jefferson Davis, president of the Confederacy. Montgomery engaged with his cousin, B. T. Green, by a railroad company to sell land in the Mississippi delta, conceived the idea of founding an all-negro colony.

He and his cousin purchased a large tract of land and sold lots to negroes on easy terms. From its beginning the town prospered. In 1898 it was incorporated and Montgomery became its first mayor. He died several years ago.

The town is goverened by a mayor and a board of aldermen, elected by popular vote every two years. Its supports five churches, two deparment stores, a hotel and many business establishments. One of the outstanding structures is a large consolidated high school built with the aid of a $150,000 bond issue floated in 1920.

The school enrollment from the town and the Mound Bayou district which surrounds it is approximately 1,000. Courses in agriculture, cooking, and sewing as well as the regular high school studies comprise the curriculum.

The old hen gathered her brood together and bade the twelve pullets guard their only brother while she went out for the afternoon.

On her return all the pullets were weeping bitterly and cried, "Oh,

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their territory taking oysters will have a lot of explaining to do and this explaining will usually have to be done in court.

One idea of the Board is to make piracy thoroughly unprofitable. If this can be done it will serve as a means to minimize the thievery and to finally abolish it entirely.

The continued cooperation of the growers and their own vigilence in combating this evil is counted upon yb the Board as a prime factor in finally putting the pirates out of business.

Towns and Settlements- 1929 II. Mississippi.

that in the island of Jamaica, with a population of some 800,000 Negroes, murders are comparatively rare—Memphis with perhaps one-tenth of the Negro population, has something like a hundred times more murders in a year than Jamaica; that pretty much the same holds true of Negroes over the world. Therefore, the difference lies not in 'Negro" psychology, but in the manner in which the Negro is treated.

Reasoning in this manner, I said something to the effect that the high murder rate of the American Negro was due to the state of irritated tension in which most Negroes perpetually found themselves because of white persecution.

Again, if the American Negro group contains the greatest percentage of criminals and murderers, the American Caucasian group exceeds all other white groups in the same. The United States is the most lawless and murderous country on earth. The white American points to the Negro as inferior because of his criminal statistics; the white European may and does point to the white American because of his.

The annual white American murder rate exceeds that of all Europe. In 1922 Chicago, with its great white population, alone, had more than five times as many murders as England and Wales, a ratio of some 60 to 1, while New York City was not far behind.

The white American charges Negro criminality to inferior heredity, saying that the lowest type of European migrated to America. We may leave these two accusers to settle their own battle. One fact is evident, however: the white American cannot plead the extenuating circumstances of the Negro. The former is lawless for the love of it.

The example of Mound Bayou ought to go far toward settling the old argument of heredity versus environment. 'If," as The Amsterdam News said editorially, "the Negro is so criminal, if he can be restrained only by the strong hand of white authorities, why has this Negro community not gone down in a chaos of robbery and murder?"

Human nature, in no matter what age or clime, acts according to certain eternal laws, regardless of racial variety. There are, no doubt, many white communities in the United States with a record like Mound Bayou's. Try to learn the cause of this and you'll find that it is due to a minimum of injustice—economic injustice.

The men at the top are responsible, by their unjust acts, in the first place, for most of the crime committed by those below them, just as white America, with its Jim-Crow laws, is responsible for the surplus of crime committed by colored Americans.

The story of Mound Bayou is a decisive victory for the humanist—for those who insist that the creation of better environment creates better people. But what will happen? This important truth will drop into the great sea of white ignorance like a pebble in the Pacific, and even the Hoffmans, Davenports and Jordans will continue their nonsence about the superiority of white heredity. Perhaps I am too much of a pessimist, but precedent has given me abundant cause to be one.

WASHINGTON, D. C. VS. MISSISSIPPI

Kansas City Call
8-9-29
Kansas City Mo.

The annual squabble is on at Highland Beach, Md., a summer resor owned and operated by Washington D. C. Negroes of so-called high society, whatever that is. The ruckuses raised each year by the "exclusive" Negroes at Highland Beach provide a deal of amusement for the ordinary garden variety of Negroes who only have sense enough to go ahead and be natural rather than exclusive. This year the problem seems to be how to keep out "ordinary folk" and save the beach, such as it is, for the blue-blooded Washingtonians of faintly tan complexion.

In contrast to this Negro town, run by so-called intelligent and cultured Negroes, we have Mound Bayou, Miss., which just recently celebrated its forty-second anniversary as a town. Mound Bayou makes no pretensions of being a town for "quality folk." It is just a good town, run by good, solid, law-abiding, hard-working, home-loving people. For more than two years the town jail has not had a prisoner, so last spring it was torn down. Among those who personally congratulated this Negro town during it celebration was the president of the Illinois Central railroad who spoke from the rear platform of his private car at the Mound Bayou station.

Mound Bayou is in "darkest Mississippi" supposed to be the worst spot in the world for Negroes. Highland Beach is peopled by Washington Negroes, supposed to be the most highly cultured members of their race on the continent. Judging the two towns by their conduct, who can say that Washington culture and a "high yellow" complexion produce better government and better citizens than Mississippi culture and just any complexion. Is Highland Beach and its silly antics proving, as one Washington paper asks, that Negroes are not capable of so simple a thing as village government?

NEGRO TOWNSHIP DISPENSES WITH ITS JAIL

Montgomery Advertiser
7-19-29
Montgomery Ala

Let Southern whites take note of this agreeable news: Recently when Mound Bayou in Bolivar County, Mississippi, a Negro township of 1,500 people, celebrated its forty-second anniversary, the press brought to light the action of the township in tearing down its jail some months ago because the jail had had no inmates for two years. That this action was warranted is shown by the declaration of Sheriff J. L. Smith of Cleveland, Mississippi, that Mound Bayou "has less disorder and fewer arrests than any other community in Bolivar County."

An Associated Press dispatch about the forty-second anniversary of Mound Bayou says in part:

> At the time the town was founded, this part of Bolivar County was a semi-tropical malarial wilderness without a railroad. It has grown into a modern community surrounded by rich staple cotton farms worth upwards of $200 an acre. Six thousand negroes reside in the rural area adjoining Mound Bayou and the section is one of the most prosperous in the State.
>
> The town is exclusively Negro and goverened solely by Negroes. It was incorporated in 1898 and its present mayor is B. A. Green, son of one of the founders and a graduate of Fisk University and the Harvard law school. The consolidated public school and county training school, the only Negro high school in the county was built at a cost of $115,000, and has an enrollment of 1,000 with a principal and 12 teachers. There are two colleges, Baptist College and Campbell College.

It is set out further that Mound Bayou was settled by Isaiah T. Montgomery and Benjamin T. Green. Montgomery was born and reared at Briercliff plantation home of Jefferson Davis. His daughter Mary C. Booze, also was born on the Davis plantation and today, she with her husband, Eugene P. Booze, operates a cotton gin, a saw mill and a 1000-acre plantation near Mound Bayou.

In a recent editorial about Mound Bayou, The Dothan Eagle says:

> The South is absolutely dependent upon Negro agricultural labor if its farms, orchards and cotton fields are to prosper, and the healthier and more intelligent that labor is, the better off all of us will be. Therefore it is to the last degree stupid for whites to wish to deny Negroes every opportunity to improve themselves through education and wholesome living conditions. Training such as is given, for example, at Tuskegee and other Southern Negro industrial institutes, makes better farmers and artisans and craftsmen of Negroes. And comfortable, healthy homes make more competent and more law-abiding citizens, of no matter what color. Leaving out considerations of Christian duty as from one man to another, economic wisdom dictates that we help the Negro to help himself. Fortunately, the most intelligent and substantial element in the South realizes this and acts upon it more generally as each year passes.
>
> The splendid object lesson in thrift, honesty and all-round good citizenship offered by the all-Negro township of Mound Bayou should be ever present before us as a rebuke to racial intolerance and injustice.

We believe The Eagle here expresses the best Southern opinion on this question. It is a viewpoint, too, which is shared by an ever-increasing number of whites

Mound Bayou

THOUSANDS JOIN IN CELEBRATING THE FOUNDING OF MOUND BAYOU, FAMOUS ALL-NEGRO TOWN

Birmingham
Reporter
7-20-29
Birmingham Ala

MOUND BAYOU, Miss., July 16.—The whole Delta is enthuiastically talking about the big home-coming celebration commemorating the forty-second anniversary of the founding of Mound Bayou town and colony, held from July [illegible] to 13. The historic and highly successful affair was under the direction of the Mound Bayou Foundation, but the two arces of this section took an active interest in the exercises.

What originally was intended as an occasion of importance to stimulate the economic and civic development of this far-famed Negro community turned into a celebration of vital concern to the inhabitants of the entire Delta. Never in history have colored and white people of this fertile agricultural region joined hands on so large a scale in a similar project—one which attracted to Mound Bayou during the week thousands of visitors

EAGLE

Dothan, Ala

JUL 11 1929

NEGRO TOWNSHIP IN MISSISSIPPI HAS NEED OF JAIL

Facts made public about an all Negro township Mound Bayou of Bolivar county, Mississippi, on the occasion of its forty-second anniversary, give food for thought to those who claim that Negroes are "spoiled" by just treatment and fair opportunities. In the first place, Mound Bayou tore down its jail several months ago because it had had no occupants for the past two years. That this action was justified is shown by the declaration of Sheriff J. L. Smith of Cleveland, Mississippi, that this Negro town of 1500 inhabitants "has less disorder and fewer arrests than any other community in Bolivar county."

An Associated Press story about the anniversary celebration of Mound Bayou, which occurred Monday, says, in part:

> At the time the town was founded, this part of Bolivar county was a semi-tropical malarial wilderness without a railroad. It has grown into a modern community surrounded by rich staple cotton farms worth upwards of $200 an acre. Six thousand negroes reside in the rural area adjoining Mound Bayou and the section is one of the most prosperous in the state.
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> The town is exclusively negro and governed solely by negroes. It was incorporated in 1898 and its present mayor is B. A. Green, son of one of the founders and a graduate of Fisk University and the Harvard law school. The consolidated public school and county training school, the only negro high school in the county was built at a cost of $115,000, and has an enrollment of 1,000 with a principal and 12 teachers. There are two colleges, Baptist college and Campbell college.

Mound Bayou was settled by Isaiah T. Montgomery and Benjamin T. Green. Montgomery, one of the best known negroes in the state was born and reared at Brierclif, plantation home of Jefferson Davis, president of the Southern Confederacy. His daughter, Mary C. Booze, also was born on the Davis plantation and today she, with her husband, Eugene P. Booze, operates a cotton gin, a saw mill and a 1000-acre plantation near Mound Bayou.

Sometimes when the suggestion comes up that it might be better for both whites and blacks if the latter were willing to go en masse to Liberia or to some other place in Africa, purchased for them by the United States, where they could be an independent and self-governing nation, it is declared by some that such a colony would rapidly deterioate into savagery. Since we are neither a prophet or an expert ethnologist we have no predictions to make about the outcome of an experiment such as the one referred to. However, we do not hesitate to say that we believe it entirely possible for Negroes and whites to live harmoniously under the same government as in this country ,and with mutual benefit on both sides, provided always that demagogues and negrophiles are not permitted to destroy this peaceful situation.

The South is absolutely dependent upon Negro agricultural labor if its farms, orchards and cotton fields are to prosper, and the healthier and more intelligent that labor is, the better off all of us will be. Therefore it is to the last degree stupid for whites to wish to deny Negroes every opoprtunity to improve themselves through education and wholesome living conditions. Training such as is given, for example, at Tuskegee and other Southern Negro Industrial Insttutes, makes better farmers and artisans and craftsmen of Negroes. And comfortable, healthy homes make more competent and more law-abiding citizens, of no matter what color. Leaving out the considerations of Christian duty as from one man to another, economic wisdom dictates that we help the Negro to help himself. Fortunately, the most intelligent and substantial element in the South realizes this and acts upon it more generally as each year passes.

The splendid object lesson in thrift, honesty and all-round good citizenship offered by the all Negro township of Mound Bayou should be ever present before us as a rebuke to racial intolerance and injustice.

Enterprise Courier

Charleston Mo

7-10-29

Negro Township in Mississippi Has Need of Jail.

Facts made public about an all Negro township, Mound Bayou of Bolivar county, Mississippi, on the occasion of its forty-second anniversary, give food for thought to those who claim that Negroes are "spoiled" by just treatment and fair opportunities. In the first place, Mound Bayou tore down its jail several months ago because it had had no occupants for the past two years. That this action was justified is shown by the declaration of Sheriff J. L. Smith of Cleveland, Mississippi, that this Negro town of 1500 inhabitants "has less disorder and fewer arrests than any other community in Bolivar county".

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The town is exclusively negro and governed solely by negroes. It was incorporated in 1898 and its present mayor is B. A. Green, son of one of the founders and a graduate of Fisk University and the Harvard law school. The consolidated public school and county training school, the only negro high school in the county, was built at a cost of $115,000, and has an enrollment of 1,000 with a principal and 12 teachers. There are two colleges, Baptist college and Campbell college.

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Towns and Settlements-1929

Mississippi.

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DELTA NEGROES HONOR ISAIAH MONTGOMERY

Unveil Monument at Mound Bayou as Celebration Opens.

MOUND BAYOU, Miss., July 7.—Homecoming Week, commemorating the forty-second anniversary of the founding of Mound Bayou, was auspiciously opened today with large crowds from all parts of the delta taking part. Many white friends of the negro were here for the opening.

The principal speaker was Bishop William B. Johnson of the Eighth Episcopal District of the Methodist Episcopal Church, who delivered a sermon in the public school auditorium at memorial services held in the afternoon. A special musical program was rendered. Special sermons on Founder's Day were preached by pastors of all the local churches at the forenoon services.

At 4 o'clock a monument was unveiled to Isaiah T. Montgomery and his wife in Mound Bayou Cemetery, conducted by the negro Masons of Mississippi. W. A. J. Morgan, past grand master, and the Rev. Jim Jones, worshipful master of Lampton Lodge, officiating. The stone was contributed to the Mound Foundation by [illegible] white friends of Montgomery in Bolivar County.

Monday will be "agricultural day," the principal speaker will be Oscar Johnson, president of the Delta and Pine Land Company, Scott; Perry W. Howard, negro Republican national committeeman from Mississippi, is also scheduled to make an address. Judge Audley W. Shands of Cleveland, will preside and Maj. Frederick Sullens, editor of the Jackson Daily News, will respond to the speakers. Howard will be accompanied to Mound Bayou by R. R. Church of Memphis.

Settled By Former Slave.

Mound Bayou is in gala attire for he occasion and the Foundation and residents have made extensive arrangements for a week of unprecedented activity. The celebration will continue to July 13. During the week "Better Homes Day," "Educational Day," "Business Day," "Founder's Day," and "Field Day" will be observed.

Mound Bayou was settled in 1887 by Montgomery and Benjamin T. Green. Montgomery, one of the best known negroes in the state, was born at Briercliff, plantation home of Jefferson Davis, president of the Confederacy.

At the time the town was founded, this part of Bolivar County was a semi-tropical malarial wilderness without a railroad. It has grown into a modern community surrounded by rich staple cotton farms worth upwards of $200 an acre. Six thousand negroes reside in the rural area adjoining Mound Bayou.

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According to Sheriff J. L. Smith of Cleveland, Mound Bayou has less disorder and fewer arrests than any other community in Bolivar County. The jail was torn down several months ago because it had not had an occupant in two years.

White and Colored Citizens Join With Mound Bayouans In Observing 42nd Birthday of Town's Founding

Distinguished Men and Women From All Parts Assist In Demonstration Which Is Marked As Big "Home-Coming" For Absent Ones

New York Age
7-20-29
New York N.Y.

Mound Bayou. Miss.—The whole Delta is enthusiastically talking about the big home-coming celebration commemorating the forty-second anniversary of the founding of Mound Bayou town and colony, held from July 7 to 13. The historic and highly successful affair was under the direction of the Mound Bayou Foundation, but the two races of this section took an active interest in the exercises.

What originally was intended as an occasion of importance to stimulate the economic and civic development of this far-famed Negro community turned into a celebration of vital concern to the inhabitants of the entire Delta. Never in history have colored and white people of this fertile agricultural region joined hands on so large a scale in a similar project—one which attracted to Mound Bayou during the week hundreds of visitors.

Both Races Cooperate.

Realization of the fact that if the great Delta is to prosper and become an industrial centre second to none in the Southland it is to be by the joint efforts of the two races, a note of cooperation and friendliness was sounded by speakers at every session. Judging from the outspoken utterances of outstanding white men who made addresses, this part of Mississippi at least, is on the threshold of a new day.

What was regarded highly significant as to appreciation shown in Mound Bayou taking the initiative in this forward movement was a letter from L. A. Downs president of the Illinois Centra complimenting the citizens of th town and colony on the ambitiou economic program just launched Mr. Downs was extended a cordia welcome as his special train passed through Mound Bayou en route to New Orleans during the celebration. It was the only stop made to extend greetings.

The celebration came to a close July 13, at Scott, Miss., where Mound Bayouans, visitors, tenants of the Delta Pine and Land Company which was acting as host, and merrymakers from Greenville and adjoining towns attended a barbecue and picnic. From five to six thousand were present. Beef, pork, lamb and watermelon were served in abundance.

Distinguished Speakers.

During the week Bishop William D. Johnson of the A. M. E. Church A. L. Holsey, secretary of Tuskegee Institute, and Secretary of the National Negro Business League; Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune, president of Bethune-Cookman College, Daytona Beach, Fla.; Perry W. Howard, National Committeeman for Mississippi; Mrs. Mary C. Booze, Republican National Committeewoman for Mississippi; Dr. L. J. Rowan, president of Alcorn A. and M. College; Dr. William H. Holtzclaw, principal of Utica Normal and Industrial Institute; W. E. Burke, business manager of U. S. Veterans Hospital, Tuskegee, Ala.; Mrs. L. C Jefferson, president of the Mississippi State Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, Vicksburg; John A. Green of Dayton, O., secretary of the Fifth Street Branch of the Y. M. C. A.; Mrs. T. O. Snelson of St. Louis, and Mrs. Emma B Miller of Yazoo City, former presidents of the federation, were among the colored speakers.

R. R. Church of Memphis and Lester A. Walton of New York were among the prominent visitors.

The most talked of address made by any of the white speakers was that of Oscar Johnston, president of the Delta and Pine Land Company, and known as one of the most courageous men in Mississippi in demanding a square deal fo the Negro. Others on the program were A. W. Shands, attorney-at-law, Cleveland, Miss.; A K. Eckles, superintendent of the Southern Christian Institute, Edwards, Miss.; Dr. O. C. Wenger of the U. S. Department of Health Hot Springs, Ark., and H. L. Wilkerson of Shelby.

One of the feautres of the week was the rendition of musical selections by the quartet from the Bolivar County Negro Training School of Mound Bayou. Miss Ze Alfin Anderson, soprano; Miss Pearl Powell, contralto; Thomas Howell, bass and Norwell Powell tenor. The quartet is to go on a tour through Mississippi and nearby States.

First Settlers Present

The exercises were brought to a close July 12, when Founders Day was observed. Gray haired men and women, a few who had accompanied Isaiah T. Montgomery, Benjamin T. Green and their associates to build a civilization in this section of the Delta, took part. Mrs Loretta Brooks, one of the first settlers, sat on the platform. Mrs. Ada Simmons, now nearing 70, spoke on behalf of the Renovators, an organization of women which years ago was active in local civic affairs and helped keep law and order. The principal address was by John A. Green, oldest son of Benjamin T. Green, who gave a history of how the pioneers of the race turned a wilderness into a municipality.

Mayor B. A. Green and E. P Booze, leaders in the movement to develop a bigger and better Mound Bayou, did themselves proud as hosts and managers of the historic celebration, and were given loya support by the other members o the Mound Bayou Foundation. The organization is made up of the following:

E. P. Booze, president; C. V Thurmond, secretary; B. A. Green treasurer. Directors—J. M. Williamson, Jr., T. S. J. Pendleton Joseph Peterson, A. A. Thompson John H. Powell, F. R. C. Durden S. P. Felder, J. M. Walton and R W. Jones.

Towns and settlements - 1929

Mississippi

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Winston-Salem, N. C., Sentinel
Monday, March 25, 1929

An Achievement

Mound Bayou, an all-negro town in Mississippi, has a jail for sale.

It is a clean, splendid town, which has a record of observance of the law many towns might envy.

The Christian Observer calls attention to the condition of the town of 3,000 negroes who govern themselves and where the city council has ordered the jail closed as "a useless and unnecessary institution."

Mound Bayou was established in 1887 as an all-negro community by Isaiah T. Montgomery, former slave in the family of Jefferson Davis, president of the Confederacy. Purchasing a large tract of delta land, he subdivided it into town lots and sold them exclusively to colored people. This was the beginning of Mound Bayou, which was incorporated in 1895, with its founder as the first Mayor. Montgomery died some years ago at an advanced age, but his influence continues to be felt and the community he sponsored remains peaceful and law abiding.

According to the record, only one arrest has been made in the community in six years, and for more than twenty years the town had not had a murder. Many of the inhabitants have never seen a policeman in uniform, because the services of none are required.

Although homicide statistics show a high rate in the South, due to the negro population, it is significant to note the nego's ability for government when in a community all his own.

The Nation 3-27-29
No 3325 Vol CXXVIII

MOUND BAYOU, the Negro town in Mississippi where no white man has ever lived, is about to tear down the city jail for the very good reason that it has been empty for two years. There has not been a murder in the town for more than four years. "We have a peace-loving and law-abiding community," says the Negro mayor. "Our people go to church instead of to jails." Mound Bayou, which was founded nearly fifty years ago by Isaiah T. Montgomery, a Negro, has a population of about 800. In the hotel is one room reserved for white people who happen to visit the town. The record of Mound Bayou should serve as a rebuke to those benighted souls who still persist in believing that Negroes are incapable of good citizenship. And it is refreshing to remember what is easily forgotten in these days of gang murders and violence of every sort, that there are many communities in the United States where murders are as rare as they are in this Mississippi town.

Evergreen, Ala., Courant
Thursday, March 14, 1929

GOOD FOR THESE NEGROES!

In 1887 Isaiah T. Montgomery, a former slave in the family of President Jefferson Davis, purchased a large tract of delta land, sub-divided it into town lots and sold them exclusively to colored people, establishing what he called Mound Bayou, Mississippi. The community was incorporated in 1895 and Montgomery was elected its first mayor. He died at an advanced age after a useful and successful life. The following item of news concerning Mound Bayou has come to us, and we pass it on to our readers, heartily commending the good example of these negroes to our negro friends everywhere:

"The city council of Mound Bayou, Mississippi, all-negro town of 3,000 inhabitants, has ordered the jail closed, as a useless and unnecessary institution. According to the records, only one arrest has been made in the community during the past six years and for more than twenty years the town has not had a murder. There are no uniformed officers in evidence and many of the oldest inhabitants have never seen a policeman in uniform." Such a record is worthy of note and commendation.—Alabama Baptist.

Argus
3-1-29
St. Louis Mo.

JAIL IS ABOLISHED IN ALL-NEGRO TOWN

MOUND BAYOU, Miss., Mar. 1.—After two years of inactivity the city jail has been ordered destroyed and the structure has been razed for the erection of a business building.

Mound Bayou is a town of approximately 1,000 population, forty miles north of Greenville, Miss., and every inhabitant is a Negro, including the mayor and all city officials. O. B. A. Green, a lawyer, and Harvard graduate, has been mayor of the town for six years and in speaking of the razing of the jail said:

"There hasn't been a prisoner in the city jail for the past two years; and we havent had a murder in town in more than four years. We have a peace-loving and law-abiding community and our people go to church instead of jail. We have six churches in Mound Bayou, three of which are Missionary Baptist, and one each of the African Methodist, Episcopal and Christian.

Mound Bayou was founded by the late Isaiah T. Montgomery, a black man, known as the sage of Mound Bayou, nearly a half century ago.

AMERICAN
HATTIESBURG, ~~MISS.~~ Mis

APR 24 1929

MOUND BAYOU'S CELEBRATION

Mound Bayou, the little town which Isaiah Montgomery, ex-slave and body servant of Jefferson Davis, founded in the Mississippi delta, is planning the celebration of its 42nd anniversary during this summer.

Mound Bayou is unique among all the towns of the state and, doubtless, of the South, as it is populated entirely by negroes, who operate all its business, including banking operations, who fill municipal offices, and who have done it so successfully that the town is growing and prospering. Mound Bayou is likewise unique for its record for peace and law observance. The jail is rarely used.

The harmony, industry and good practical sense of the original founders and settlers were an endowment fully appreciated by the negroes of this colony today. They have organized a Mound Bayou Foundation to raise one million dollars to rehabilitate and perpetuate the town and colony as a memorial to Isaiah Montgomery and his associates. Since many of the citizens are prosperous and the land of the negro farmers in that community is as rich as any in the delta, their goal is not so preposterous as it seems at first glance.

The white people of the delta are supporting the Foundation, the character and industry of the citizens of Mound Bayou having long ago earned their approbation and co-operation.

Mound Bayou represents the best group achievement of the negro race in Mississippi. It might well be watched and studied as offering aid in solving the problems which confront the white and the black people of the South.

TIMES
WICHITA FALLS, TEX.

APR 26 1929

THE NEGRO'S OWN TOWN

Mound Bayou, Mississippi, has a population of 3,000, all negroes. It was established in 1887 by Isaiah Montgomery, an ex-slave, who had served the family of Jefferson Davis.

Mound Bayou got its name in the papers recently because its city council ordered the jail closed as "a useless and unnecessary institution." There has been only one prisoner in the jail in six years. The community's record is practically free from crime of any kind.

What does it prove? There are many cities whose negro section contains more negro inhabitants than are to be found in Mound Bayou, living in close-knit communities, but not living apart from the whites. Most negro communities of that kind see more crime and disorder in a week than Mound Bayou has known in its history. Can the conclusion be drawn that the negro's good behavior is in proration to his remoteness from the white race?

The explanation of Mound Bayou's record is probably to be found in the kind of negroes that were attracted to it. It is essentially a rural community. Half a dozen typical town negroes could tear its splendid record to pieces in a few days. And if the town negroes were to be accompanied to it by a white officer of the type that battens on negroes, its troubles would multiply at a very rapid rate. Mound Bayou, by accident or otherwise, has maintained itself as a peaceful, industrious rural community such as offers few attractions to the negro who wants to live with a minimum of labor. Its experience doesn't answer the question of how to deal best with that kind of negro

HISTORY LIVES IN STAID TOWN OF MOUND BAYOU

Founded by Isaiah Montgomery in 1887 Has Become Most Exemplary Town in South

MOUND BAYOU, Miss, May 23.—Subsequent to the announcement of plans for the celebration of the forty-second anniversary of the founding of Mound Bayou, Miss., July 7 to 13, extensive arrangements are being made for the occasion. Behind the incident is the story of the rise of one of the most exemplitory communities [illegible] the South.

5-24-29

Was A Wilderness

When Isaiah T. Montgomery, Benjamin T. Green and other Negro pioneers settled in Mound Bayou in 1887, the country was an unbroken wilderness. To encourage the development of agriculture, trade and commerce in the fertile territory n the section extending along the Mississippi from Memphis to Vicksburg, in which Mound Bayou lies, he L. N. O. & T. Railway, which was later sold to the Yazoo & Mississippi Valley Railway, had been given a grant of 1,000,000 acres n the alluvial rich delta.

While the area traversed by the railroad supplied a wealth of soil, and timber, at the time it was thought that only the Negro had a natural adaptation to life in a semi-tropical country presumed to be malarial.

Noted for Cotton Crop.

For nearly half a century Mound Bayou has been known as "one o he most remarkable towns in the South." It is on the Yazoo and Mississippi Valley Railway a branch o he Illinois Central, and situated between Memphis and Vicksburg. The town's principal thoroughfare, Federal Highway No. 61, connects with St. Louis and Chicago on the north and New Orleans on the south.

Located in Bolivar county, which raises more staple cotton than any other county in the world, Mound Bayou produces one-eighth of this supply. It was Bolivar county that gave Mississippi one of its two Negro United States Senators—Blanche K. Bruce—and the only Negro member of the Mississippi Constitutional Convention in 1890—Isaiah T. Montgomery, Mrs. Mary C. Booze, daughter of Mr. Montgomery, and a resident of Mound Bayou, is the Republican national committeewoman from this State.

The settlement embraces approximately 12 square miles, o 30,000 acres. Within this territory 1500 persons live in the town and 6000 in the rural district. In this area may be found some of the most productive farmland in the country valued at $200 an acre.

The town of Mound Bayou, the pivot of all industrial, commercial educational, religious and social activities, was incorporated in 1898 Its officials are elected every two years. The present Mayor is B. A. Green, son of one of the founders Benjamin T. Green. He is a graduate of Alcorn Agricultural College. Fisk University and Harvard Law School Mayor Green, who is filling his fourth term, is also Justice of Peace He is in his early forties and unmarried.

Other town officials ar Fred L Booze, Treasurer; Mrs. E. H. Jones City Clerk; John Thomas, Marshall Aldermen—R. W. Jones, J. W. Covington, H. Powell and Steven Cohn One vacancy exists in the Aldermanic Board.

Churches And Schools

Mound Bayou is the Negro educational centre of the Delta, its influence radiating for miles around The Mound Bayou Consolidated Public School and County Training School has an enrollment of 1000 with a principal and 12 teachers It was built at a cost of $115,000 This insttution is the only high school in the county for Negroes.

Baptist College, with from 250 to 300 students and Campbell College two miles east of the town on a tract of 1070 acres, supported by the A M. E. Church, have ambitious programs.

There are seven houses of worship in the town—one African Methodist Episcopal Church, one Episcopal Church, one Methodist Episcopal Church, one Christian Church and three missionary Baptist Churches. With one exception all have large congregations.

Mound Bayou boasts of one oil mill, three gins, a saw mill, a bottling works, 10 grocery stores, three meat markets two drug stores, one grist mill, two undertaking establishments, two barber shops, two service stations, a hotel and restaurant, and several lunch stands. Also one lawyer, one physician and one dentist, one newspaper, two printing shops, two blacksmith shops and and a machine shop.

Women Interested in Business

Women play an important part in the business operation of the community. Mrs. P. R. McCarter is owner of a gin and 800 acres of land and conducts a mercantile business. The town's bottling works, which makes soft drinks, is owned and operated by Mrs. M. E. Davis. Mrs. Eva P. Francis, mother of Mayor Green, is executrix of the large and well-managed Benjamin T. Green estate.

Two women active in the development of community life are Mrs. Mattie Christmas, chairman of the agriculture department of the Bolivar County Negro Fair, and Mrs. P. J. Smith, president of the Parent-Teacher Association, The manager of the Southern Bell Telephone Company here is a young woman—Miss Cornella Marr.

Have Palatial Homes

The best-known Race woman in the State of Mississippi is Mrs. Mary C. Booze. Under the management of her husband, Eugene P. Booze, the Republican National Committeewoman owns and operates a gin and saw mill and 1000 acres. She was born in the old Jefferson Davis mansion on the Brierfield Plantation, Davis Bend Warren county, Miss. Her father, the late Isaiah T. Montgomery, was reared in the Davis home.

Rated among those having large property holdings in the settlement are: C. F. Bolton, T. S. Morris and B. W. Byram, C. V. Thurmon, Postmaster R. W. Jones, express and railroad agent, and J. M. Williamson, Jr., representative of the Booze interests, reflect the progressive sentiment of the younger men.

The leading families of the town live in well-appointed homes and enjoy modern conveniences. The most pretentious dwelling is the 23-room brick resident, built at a cost of $30,000 by the late Isaiah T. Montgomery, who died in 1924.

Do not Need A Jail

Mound Bayou has long borne a good reputation for law observance. Sheriff J. L. Smith, of Cleveland, Miss., says the community has less disorders and arrest than any town or voting precinct in Bolivar county E. L. Ishmon, Deputy Sheriff, and John Thomas, twon marshal, lead uneventful lives. They have to farm for a living.

The jail has been torn down at the instance of the city fathers having outlived its usefulness. For two years it has not housed a single inmate. Lock and key were getting rusty. Prospects of arrests and incarcerations are remote.

Mound Bayou Makes Forty-Two Years of Progress.

Friday, July 12, will mark the forty-second anniversary of Mound Bayou, Miss.

Mound Bayou is a negro town and colony. It was founded by Isiah Montgomery and Benjamin T. Green, former slaves of Jefferson Davis, president of the Confederacy.

The founders of Mound Bayou were negroes of the highest integrity. They visualized a community made up entirely of members of their race who would exemplify the virtues of honesty, industry and thrift.

The negro has not had two more remarkable leaders. Montgomery lived to a ripe old age. He enjoyed the confidence and respect of everyone who knew him.

He was not only a good citizen, but his life influenced for good everyone it touched. He built Mound Bayou on a foundation that enables it yet to be unique among American institutions.

Mississippi probably is more criticized than any other state for its attitude toward the negro. Mound Bayou is the answer to negro agitators like DePriest, and south baiting newspapers like the Chicago Tribune and the Cleveland Press of the Scripps-Howard organization.

The negroes of Mound Bayou live their own lives in contentment and industry. They prosper. They enjoy the protection of law and the privileges of their citizenship.

While DePriest and the Scripps-Howard paper are endeavoring to raise $200,000 with which to force social equality between the races, which could only promote prejudice and ill feeling, the Mound Bayou colony is directing its effort to the discharge of obligations of citizenship.

The Commercial Appeal congratulates the successors of the founders for their ability to sustain the ideals of Isiah Montgomery and to carry on according to the plans he formulated and with the ideals to which he adhered as long as he lived.

The south recognizes the truth of Lincoln's statement that the nation could not endure one-half free and one-half slave. The south realizes even more forcibly that progress is impossible wit half intelligent and one-ha norant, one-half prosperous one-half poor.

The south wishes for every person, white or black, every opportunity he is capable of enjoying. The south believes that every person, white or black, is entitled to protection under the law in his person and property.

We hope Mound Bayou will continue to prosper and that its example may ultimately silence the critics of the south and teach them something of how the whites and the negroes live in the south on terms of friendship, sympathy and understanding.

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Mississippi

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Mound Bayou Marks 42nd Anniversary Of Town, Home-Coming

Age 5/11/29 N.Y.

Mound Bayou, Miss.—The week of July 7 to 13 marks the 42nd anniversary of the founding of Mound Bayou by the late Isaiah T. Montgomery, and the town people are making arrangements for an elaborate celebration, to be featured as "Home-Coming Week."

Citizens of this all-Negro city and adjacent colony are cooperating to give a royal welcome to those former Mound Bayouites who may return for the anniversary, and they have received assurances from all sections of the country that many who have moved away from this city will come back for this occasion.

A civic movement has been started here to have everything in good shape for "Homecoming Week." The paint brush is being freely used and carpenters are busy on all sides, fixing up fences and repairing houses where necessary.

Coincident with these preparations, there has been organized the Mound Bayou Foundation, which plans to raise $1,000,000 to rehabilitate and perpetuate the town and colony as a memorial to the founders and early settlers. Officers of the Foundation are Eugene P. Booze, president (a son-in-law of the founder); Mayor B. A. Green, treasurer; C. V. Thurmond, secretary.

Other directors are J. M. Williamson jr., F. R. C. Durden, S. P. Felder, T. S. J. Pendleton, A. A. Thompson, J. M. Walton, Joseph Peterson, John H. Powell and R. W. Jones.

Mound Bayou citizens have adopted the slogan, "A Bigger and Better Mound Bayou," and have entered enthusiastically into a campaign to bring capital and worthwhile people into their midst looking forward to future agricultural, industrial and civic development of the community, which encompasses some of the richest agricultural land in the United States.

On Tuesday evening, April 16, Lester A. Walton of the New York World addressed Mound Bayou citizens in the high school auditorium on "Mound Bayou Golden Economic Opportunities."

The white people of the Mississippi Delta, in which Mound Bayou is located are giving their unqualified support to the Foundation.

Forsyth, Ga., Advertiser
Thursday, March 21, 1929

T. 78

MISSISSIPPI ALL-NEGRO TOWN ORDERS JAIL CLOSED

The city council of Mound Bayou, Miss., all-negro town of 3,000 inhabitants, has ordered the jail closed, as a useless and unnecessary institution. According to the records, only one arrest has been made in the community during the past six years, and for more than 20 years the town has not had a murder. There are no uniformed officers in evidence and many of the oldest inhabitants have never seen a policeman in uniform. Such a record would be significant in any community, but it is particularly so in this case, as indicating the capacity of negroes for good citizenship.

Mound Bayou was established in 1887 as an all-negro community by Isaiah T. Montgomery, former slave in the family of Jefferson Davis, president of the Confederacy. Purchasing a large tract of delta land, he subdivided it into town lots and sold them exclusively to colored people. This was the beginning of Mound Bayou, which was incorporated in 1895 with its founder as the first mayor. Montgomery died some years ago at an advanced age, after a successful and useful life that gained the respect and confidence of all.

GOOD INTENT FRUSTRATED.

Age 5-25-29

A few weeks ago we had occasion to refer to the coming celebration of its fortysecond anniversary by the town of Mound Bayou, which has added to its unique distinction by doing away with its jail. As a part of this celebration, a campaign has been started to bring in capital and worthwhile people to rehabilitate and perpetuate the town as a memorial to the early settlers in the Mississippi Delta. This movement has not only been sponsored by the prominent Negro citizens who run the town, but it has received the sympathy and cooperation of the prominent white citizens of that section who have shown their good intentions in a practical manner.

But the good intent and effort to further cordial racial relations in this manner appear to be in danger of frustration through the continued toleration of mob violence in Mississippi. Only last week, a special to The Age from Macon, Miss., told how a colored worker on a plantation was shot to death by a mob, immediately after he had stabbed and killed the owner of the plantation. A dispute had arisen out of a disagreement over a crop contract and the tenant farmer had left the plantation, when the owner started after him and the fight occurred. At most it was a dispute over money in which the parties came to blows and the tenant who was anxious to quit a losing game killed his aggressor in self-defence.

The whole matter probably grew out of the infamous tenant crop system, which is intended to keep the tenant in perpetual debt to the owner of the land and reduce him to a state of peonage. It is this economic slavery that has driven so many of the Negro farmers away from Mississippi and other Southern states. The tenant, no matter how hard he works and how large a crop he may raise, is always figured out as being in debt to the owner for supplies advanced him during the season, previous to the gathering of the crop. It is a vicious system which affords every facility for cheating the ignorant and helpless tenant, and when he rebels and seeks to leave the farm, he is restrained by force from trying to improve his condition.

The expressions of goodwill and the marks of friendly cooperation on the part of the well intentioned white people of Mississippi will fail to convince thinking Negroes, either within or without the state, that the Delta is a good place for them to invest their capital or their labor, so long as peonage remains a part of its economic system. Such a system is bound to engender and encourage cheating the laborer out of his honest share of his earnings and to provoke resentment and violence, even to the point of murder by the mob.

If the leading whites of Mississippi are in earnest with their expressions of good intent, they should urge Governor Bilbo and the other state authorities to abolish the peonage system and wipe out every vestige of the economic slavery which it has fostered. Give the laborer and the farm tenant a fair deal economically, so that they may earn and receive an adequate share of the crops for their labor. Put an end to mob violence and the effort to keep the Negro in economic slavery by brute force. Enforce the laws so as to give equal protection to all classes of the community in life, liberty and the purpsuit of happiness. Increase the facilities for the education of both races on an equal basis, to as high a level as the state finances will justify.

Until the well intentioned white citizens of Mississippi can accomplish some of these things, their demonstrations of good intent will remain frustrated by the reign of the mob.

EAGLE
Dothan, Ala
MAR 26 1929

For Sale—A Jail

(From The Chattanooga News)

Mr. Hoffman, insurance expert who compiles statistics for the Prudential each year, says the high rate in the South is due to the negro. That is true, no doubt. Yet what the negro can do under favorable circumstances is strikingly shown in the case of Mound Bayou, Miss.

The Christian Observer points out that the city council of Mound Bayou, an all-negro town of 3,000 inhabitants, has order the jail closed as "a useless and unnecessary institution."

According to the records, only one arrest has been made in the community during the past six years, and for more than twenty years the town has not had a murder. There are no uniformed officers in evidence and many of the oldest inhabitants have never seen a policeman in uniform. Such a record would be significant in any community, but it is particularly so in this case, as indicating the capacity of negroes for good citizenship.

Mound Bayou was established in 1887, as an all-negro community by Isaiah T. Montgomery, former slave in the family of Jefferson Davis, president of the Confederacy. Purchasing a large tract of delta land, he subdivided in into town lots and sold them exclusively to colored people. This was the beginning of Mound Bayou, which was incorporated in 1895 with its founder as the first mayor. Montgomery died some years ago at an advanced age, after a successful and useful life that gained the respect and confidence of all.

Mound Bayou is a clean, splendid town, with a record that few towns in Mississippi could equal.

STAR

Anniston, Ala

APR 27 1929

Negro Not So Bad When Separated From White Man

The recent reports that have come from Mound Bayou, Miss., all-Negro town, regarding its freedom from crime are of especial interest to Anniston in view of the fact that we have a similar municipality as our near neighbor, one of the few of its kind in America. Hobson City, the town of only colored inhabitants and colored rule which lies at the doors of Anniston, can hardly boast a record approaching that of Mound Bayou, but it is a fairly orderly and law-abiding community. We do not recall any cases of serious crime recently in Hobson City.

Noting the record established by Mound Bayou, The Selma Times-Journal draws the conclusion that the Negro makes a good citizen if kept in the proper environment and that he is more peaceable and less inclined to commit crimes if kept from close contact with white men.

"Some figures recently published by the Prudential Life Insurance Company showing the crime records of various cities of the country," says the Times-Journal, "gave Memphis the bad eminence of being the worst crime-ridden city of the United States and placed Birmingham a close second. The explanation offered is that these urban centers contain a heavy negro population and that the negro is a born violator of the law. This deduction, however, is not sustained and borne out by other factors that enter into the equation. The fact that all the executive machinery of the law in the South is in the hands of the white people may at least partially account for the high percentage of arrests among negroes and also for the unfailing regularity with which negroes are convicted and punished.

"The negro makes a much more flattering showing as a criminal when he is disassociated from the white man. Striking proof of this assumption is given in the case of Mound Bayou, Mississippi, a town of 3,000 population, all negroes. The City Council of Mound Bayou recently ordered the jail closed 'as a useless and unnecessary institution.'

"The records show that only one arrest has been made in the negro community during the past six years, and for more than 20 years the town has not had a murder. No uniformed officers parade the streets and many of the oldest inhabitants have never seen a policeman in uniform, except when on a visit to some neighboring city. The experience of Mound Bayou is a conclusive demonstration that the negro under the proper environment is not a criminal. All of his native elements of character appear to fit him for good citizenship. There is a mountainous mass of evidence to show that when the negro of the South is caught for violating the prohibition laws, either for bootlegging or for making the stuff, there is a white man somewhere under cover, who enticed him into it and initiated the business. Not always, but the times are as numerous as hairs on the head."

Quoting from The Christian Observer, The Chattanooga News gives a similar thought regarding the significance of Mound Bayou's record. "Such a record," The News says, "would be significant in any community, but it is particularly so in this case, as indicating the capacity of negroes for good citizenship.

"Mound Bayou was established in 1887 as an all-Negro community by Isaiah T. Montgomery, former slave in the family of Jefferson Davis, president of the Confederacy. Purchasing a large tract of Delta land, he subdivided it into town lots and sold them exclusively to colored people. This was the beginning of Mound Bayou, which was incorporated in 1895 with its founder as the first mayor. Montgomery died some years ago at an advanced age, after a successful and useful life that gained the respect and confidence of all.

"Mound Bayou is a clean, splendid town, with a record that few towns in Mississippi could equal."

We doubt is there is another town in the state, or in the country, that can surpass, if equal, that record. Some may see in this an argument for segregation.

The "Perfect" Town

By J. A. ROGERS

Amsterdam News

4-3-29

New York N.Y.

RECENTLY, a news item published in the Negro press was copied by some of the daily papers and now it has found its way into the European papers.

This bit of news is revolutionary in its significance, for once more the enemies of the Negro have had one of their arguments—this time their pet argument—shattered into a thousand irretrievable fragments.

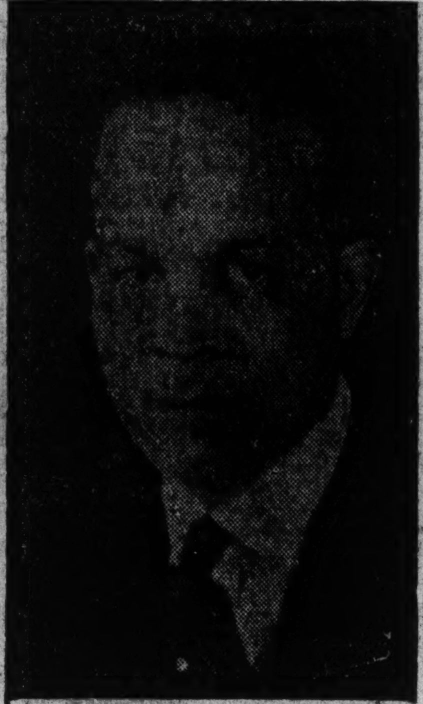
The bit of news referred to is that Mound Bayou, Miss., the Negro town founded by Isaiah I. Montgomery in 1887, with now a population of 3,000 has had to abolish its prison and discharge those who kept it, as there is no need for their services. The last arrest, it is reported, was made in 1922, and the last murder was committed more than twenty years ago.

In this population of 3,000 are seen very few white persons, nearly all of whom are salesmen who are in the town for a day or two. The management of the town is entirely in the hands of the Negroes.

This fact about Mound Bayou is as important as any other bit of news ever reported in the Negro press. It does not prove that the Negroes are not criminal, but it does show that conditions make them so.

Unfortunately, I have not the exact figures at hand, but some years ago I went into the statistics on Negro crime, carefully, and found so far as I can recall now that the ratio among colored was from three to four times higher than among white people. The murder rate for Negroes stood at the astonishing figure of eleven to one for the whites. Memphis, with its dense Negro population, was the murder capital of the world.

Now there is no doubt that the black man usually receives a harsher sentence than the white, being thus marked as a criminal; the white, sometimes with powerful influence in the courts, gets the lighter penalty, being rated as a minor offender. But the significant fact is that these figures stood in black and white in United States records giving incontestable proof to the assertions of scientists and pseudo-scientists. The Dixons, Tillmans, William Benjamin Smiths, Stoddards and others quoted them with deadly effect. The more rational white scientists like Davenport and Jordan also found themselves confronted with these figures and readily used them in dubbing the Negro inferior.



— J. A. Rogers —

And the fact is that criminals, and most of all the murderers, are vividly inferior types, no matter to what strata of society they belong. Both are regarded with abhorrence among all people. In the last analysis the superior man is regarded as he who loves his fellowmen strongly enough not to steal from them, nor to wound, murder or offer them any kind of physical violence. The inferior types go to the criminal courts; the superior to the civil courts; the highest type of individual is he who keeps out of the law courts altogether and settles his differences in the spirit of love and brotherhood.

Much of the hostile attitude of the white people towards Negroes springs not so much from badness of heart as from fancied self-preservation—the fact that they have been taught that the Negro is a danger.

Even the Negro writer was influenced adversely when faced by these statistics on criminality. It took much explaining on his part—explanation that was based rather on belief than on proof.

I remember, however, that in primitive Africa theft and murder are almost unknown in the tribes—there are no locks, prisons and steel safes, though the tribes murder and steal from one another like European nations;

Towns and Settlements – 1929

Mississippi.

Mississippi's All-Negro Town Is One of the Dramatic and Unique Features of the United States. It Was Established 42 Years Ago and Has Developed into a Town of Growing Power and Achievement.

When a handful of enterprising Negroes with vision and determination, founded the all-Negro town of Mound Bayou, in Mississippi, everybody expected its early downfall. Such remarks as these were constantly encountered by the young pioneers: "Negroes can't rule themselves!" "They won't 'pull' together"; "The town will fail in five years." Well, Mound Bayou is still alive and kicking—kicking high at that.

[illegible]

The Founders.

The first plans for establishing Mound Bayou as a real town were laid by Isaiah T. Montgomery, a former slave, and his cousin, Benjamin T. Green, July 12, 1887. These two hardy and farsighted Negroes purchased one thousand acres of land from the L.N.O. and T. Railroad Company, and with their heroic families, pitched their tents upon their new acquisition. At that time this part of Mississippi was a vast wilderness—not even a shack was in sight.

Two Intrepid Hunters.

For companionship, the Montgomerys and Greens were forced to content themselves with forest-bears, panthers, dear, wolves, wildcats and raccoons. Of course the animals were loathe to part with the sovereignty of this wilderness, hence the battle between man and beast was bitterly waged.

It is unnecessary to point out the victors. Moreover it is conceded that Green and Montgomery were two of the most intrepid hunters who ever entered the Mississippi Valley; and that their skill with the rifle was unequalled.

First Huts Built

The battle with the Mississippi animals having been won, it was not long before giant oaks and trees of gum and cypress began to fall before the swing of the axe-men. In their stead were soon erected sturdy dwelling places of strong timber. Wells were driven to supply fresh water in the place of spring water which was during those times the only available water supply.

The Origin of the Name Mound Bayou

The original two families had now grown into a colony of respectable size. One day, some one popped the question: What shall we call our new settlement? The answer was obvious. These early settlers had undergone much hardship in overcoming the difficulties resulting from the numerous mounds and bayous that abounded near the site of the embryonic community. So with a unanimous gusto, the name "Mound Bayou" was adopted.

Pioneers Are Organized Into Home Owning Community

Montgomery and Green then began to organize the pioneers into a home-owning community. A portion of the original thousand acres purchased by the founders was divided into town lots and sold to the settlers on long terms; while other settlers were able to secure from the railroad company, farmland upon long leases.

The Little Community Receives It First Sorrow

Amidst the progress and happiness that crowned the efforts of these people, fell the first sorrow. Benjamin Green, one of the co-founders, was killed by a worthless tramp over a trivial matter. This sudden blow saddened these hardy folk, for they realized fully the loss of their great leader. However, this state of mind did not remain long. Mound Bayou had become an object of general attention throughout America. Beginning as it did under the well-known circumstances surrounding life in Mississippi, the entire experiment was viewed with some trepidation.

Mound Bayou is Incorporated

The situation became, however, an entirely favorable one, consequently in 1898 the town was incorporated. I. T. Montgomery, the surviving co-founder, was elected its first mayor.

There are now between 1,000 and 1,500 people in the incorporated town. In what is called the Mound Bayou Community, there are around 3,000 Negro men and women.

Mound Bayou Has Numerous Business Organizations

The progress of these people is exemplified in the extent of their business organizations. The following are some of the enterprises of the town:

The Mound Bayou Bottling Works manufacturing soda water, ginger ale, gay ola and other soft drinks.

A Burial Association.
Two Steam Gins.
One Electric Gin.
Two Drug Stores.
One Hotel.
Three Barber Shops.
One Electric Shoe Repair Shop.
One Job Printing plant.
One Weekly Newspaper.
Ten Mercantile Establishments.
Two Service Stations.
One Auto Repair Shop.
One Federal Farm Loan Association.
Two Undertakers.

Mound Bayou has its share of churches, there being six. Perhaps it was the religious influence exerted by these churches that caused the abolition of the Mound Bayou jail.

Their School System

The following schools are effectively handling the educational situation in this bright town.

The Mound Bayou Consolidated School District, in which is located Bolivar County Training School. This school owns real estate worth $150,000 and has a student enrollment of 1,000.

The Baptist Normal, a high school has an enrollment of 150 students.

Has Effective Municipal Government

Mount Bayou is governed in an orderly manner, by a mayor and a board of aldermen: B. A. Green, mayor; R. W. Jones, S. L. Cohn, Joe W. Covington and H. H. Powell are aldermen; chief of police, John Thomas; fire chief, Jim Miller; treasurer, Fred L. Booze; Mrs. E. H. Jones is city clerk; Dr. P. M. George is city health officer.

Is Not Heavily Weighted With Debt

Mound Bayou is not heavily weighted with debt as are most American cities and towns. It total indebtedness is but $8,500.

The town is also well lighted by electricity; the climate is healthful and the winters pleasantly mild.

In the professional field, it contains one lawyer, one medical doctor, and one dentist.

Have Arranged Million-Dollar Project

The people of Mound Bayou have an old-fashioned community spirit also. They have recently organized a Mound Bayou Foundation to raise one million dollars for the development of their town.

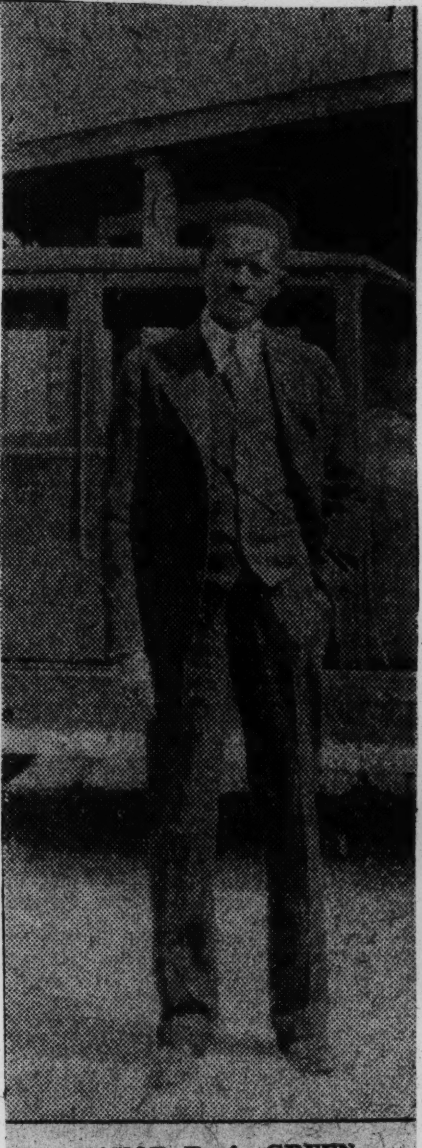
Recently there was a celebration of Home Coming Week and Founder's Day (July 7-13, 1929).

The very permanency and stability of this pioneering community has attracted the interest of the entire country; particulary when one of its distinguished citizens, Mrs. Mary C. Booze, attracted widespread attention as national Republican Committeewoman for the State of Mississippi.

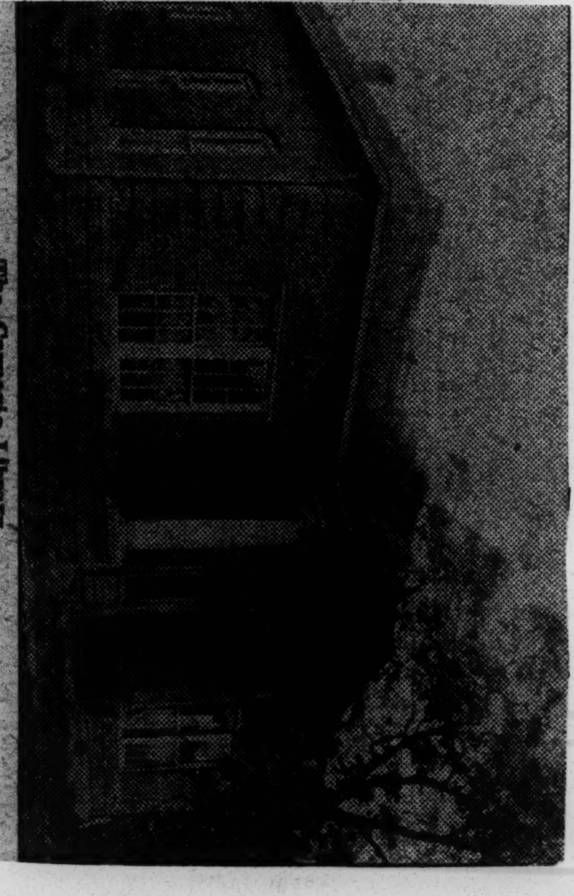
Will There Be an All-Negro State?

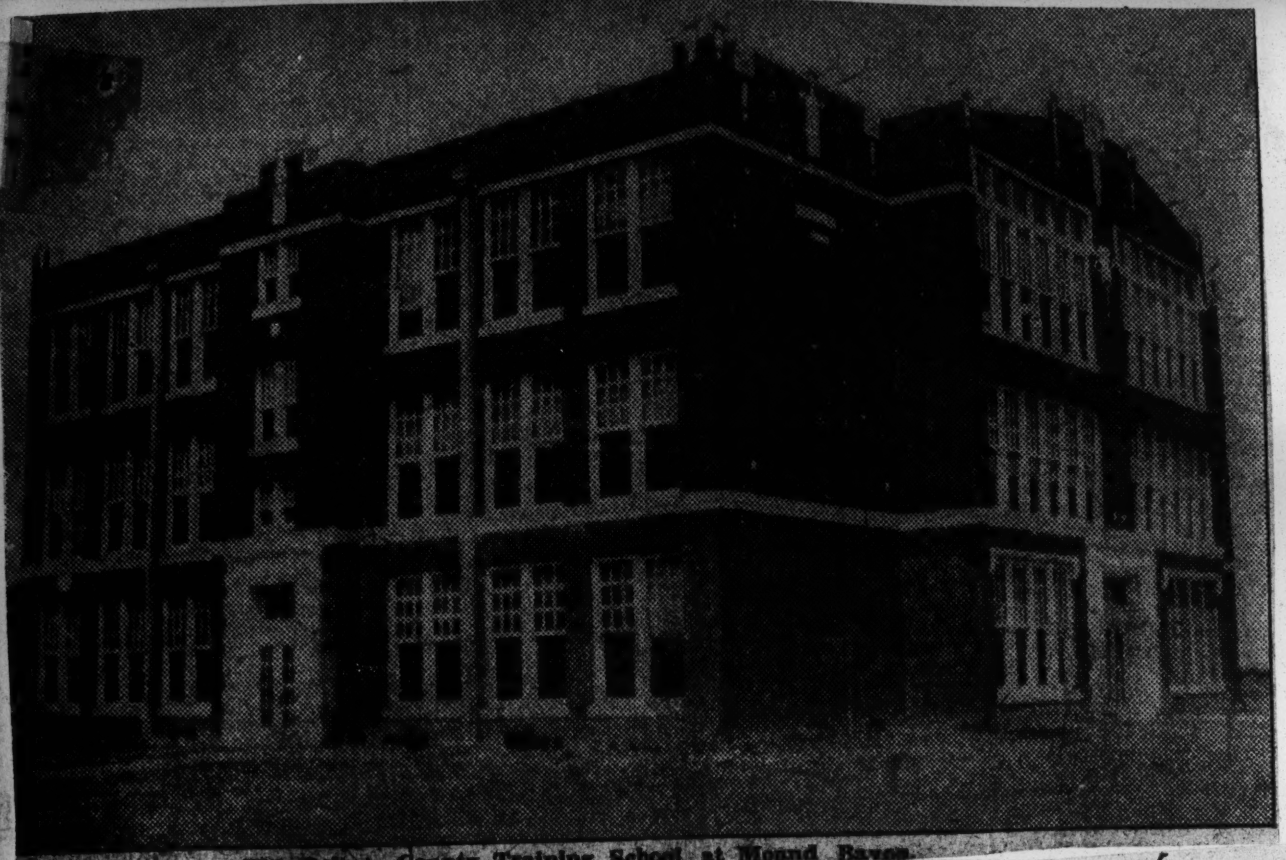
Mound Bayou has often been discussed as the possible nucleus of an all-Negro state. It is not entirely improbable that this may be brought to pass. Many authorities, both white and black, have predicted the establishment of an all-Negro state in America, and have indicated that Mound Bayou will be the base of such a project.

The Mound Bayou invitation to the Negro men and women of the world is "Come to Mound Bayou and run for Judge and Chief of Police and not from them!"


MAYOR B. A. GREEN

Imposing home of Isaiah T. Montgomery, founder of the city


The Carnegie Library



The Bolivar County Training School, at Mound Bayou.

6,000 Men and Women Enjoy Mammoth Feast of Barbecued Meats, Bread, Watermelon at Mound Bayou Holiday

Homecoming Week Celebration of Delta Town's Founding 42 Yrs. Ago Has Spectacular Ending With Great Outdoor Picnic

By Lester A. Walton.

Mound Bayou, Miss.—Mississippi has been the scene of many a barbecue, but what is said to have been the largest and most spectacular of them all was recently staged at Scott, when 6,000 Negroes, 5,000 pounds of beef, mutton and pork, truckloads of bread and watermelons, bands of music and Charleston dancers were contributory elements.

This Dixie holiday of holidays was the culmination of the Homecoming Week Celebration, commemorating the forty-second anniversary of the founding of Mound Bayou.

The Delta Pine and Land Company, the largest growers of long staple cotton in America, and owners of the largest individually-managed and centralized cotton plantation in the world, acted as host to Mound Bayouans, visitors who had been attending the homecoming exercises, and its army of tenant farmers. Stylishly-dressed men and women from Memphis, Greenville and other urban centres joined with the field hands in the festivities.

An Unshaded Expanse.

The picnickers made merry on a grassy expanse as level as a billiard table, just as green, which was encircled by budding cotton. It was no sylvan retreat, for there were only a few trees to afford shelter from the broiling sun. But few cared.

Almost everybody came in cars. There were as many in the parking space supervised by police from Greenville are are seen at a baseball game at the Polo Grounds or Yankee Stadium. The tenant farmer has enthusiastically gone in for motoring. Fords dominate.

Aside from eating their fill, fifty three tenant farmers received cash prizes for growing the largest acreage crops in 1928 on the land of the Delta Pine and Land Company. The three most successful were George Stewart, $50, who raised 6,185 pounds of cotton on six acres, or two bales to an acre; Minerva Blount, a widow, $25, who raised 4,855 pounds on six acres, or approximately a bale and a half an acre, and William Baldridge, $15, who raised 9,025 pounds on twelve acres, or approximately a bale and a half an acre.

In the entire South the average yield per acre is 152 pounds. The three prizewinners set a record of 1,031 pounds, 806 and 730 pounds per acre, respectively. Forty other farmers received prizes ranging from $15, $10 and $5.

Friend To The Negro.

The awards were made by Oscar Johnston, president of the Delta Pine and Land Company of Scott, Miss.; Mayor B. A. Green of Mound Bayou, and E. P. Booze, president of the Mound Bayou Foundation. Messrs. Green and Booze were largely responsible for the success of Homecoming Week Celebration.

Mr. Johnston, formerly a leading lawyer and banker of Clarksdale, is well known throughout the state for his advanced views. He served sixteen years as a member of the Legislature from Coahoma County, and once ran for Governor in one of the most spirited contests ever witnessed in the State. He is recognized as the leader of the movement to give the Negro equal opportunity, and has publicly denounced those who exploit and browbeat the tenant farmer. His slogan, "Stop farming the labor and farm the land," has been heard from one end of the Delta to the other.

The Delta Pine and Land Company controls an aggregate of 47,000 acres of which 25,000 are in cotton, 10,000 in foodstuffs, and the balance in houses, yards, stores and pasture. Fifteen thousand bales of cotton are raised yearly. Between four and five thousand Negroes live on the company's land, which is divided into fifteen units. Each has a manager.

Business between the landlord and tenant is transacted on the share plan, known as the one-half system. The landlord furnishes the land, house, livestock, and feed seed and all equipment. The tenant furnishes the labor. Credit is extended the latter to meet domestic needs, based on good character.

Get Monthly Statements.

Unlike the pernicious system practiced by some landlords in the South, the tenant is given a monthly financial statement. One of the chief reasons thousands left the cotton fields throughout the Southland was because unscrupulous landlords refused to give accurate accountings, or none at all. Often when the tenant farmer complained he was beaten. Lynchings have grown out of disputes.

In 1928, the Delta Pine and Land Company paid its tenant farmers half a million dollars, advancing them for living expenses while they were raising cotton $230,000. The amounts received by the four leading share-croppers were: Albert Brown, 82 acres, $3.884.29; F. E. Ellensworth, 35 acres, $3,237.29; John Bias jr., 17 acres, $2,062.94; Ben Moore, 16 acres, $1,194.48. Out of 1,000 families 40 per cent own their own cars.

It is estimated that 130 days are put in by the tenant farmer, who usually is assisted by members of his family in making a crop. They never work on Saturdays and Sundays, going to town and doing their shopping one day and going to church the next.

Good Health A Necessity.

"Both the landlord and tenant profit by the latter enjoying good health," Oscar Johnston told a large mixed audience in the public school auditorium at Mound Bayou on Agriculture Day. "Besides our own hospital, which has a staff of one physician and two colored nurses, we have just organized a sick and accident benefit association.

"The Negro farmer of the South must pay more attention to the laws of health and hygiene. He will become a more valuable asset both to himself and others. Last year we sustained a $50,000 loss from inefficient labor due to diseases. All mutually concerned were affected financially.

Mr. Johnston advocates education for white and colored children. He says he prefers to deal with a tenant who can read and write and keep his own accounts; for, if intelligent, it is easier to get along and no suspicion arises as to whether he is being cheated.

If the sentiments expressed by white speakers, who appeared on the program at the Mound Bayou celebration, are to be interpreted as reflecting what is in the back of the heads of the ruling group, Mssissippi has awakened to the realization that if it is to prosper and go forward a square deal must be given the Negro.

In every instance the note of interracial co-operation was sounded and the Mound Bayou Foundation praised for its ambitious economic program. Admission was voluntarily made that if the Delta was to develop it would only be by both races working in harmony

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President Hoover Hears Plea Of Aid For Mound Bayou

Journal & Guide
2-7-31
Norfolk, Va.

WASHINGTON, D. C.—A plea for aid for drought sufferers in the vicinity of Mound Bayou, Miss., was made to President Hoover by Eugene P. Booze last Wednesday. Mr. Booze called at the White House and discussed with the President the matter of relief through the American Red Cross and governmental agencies for a colony of Negro farmers at Mound Bayou.

According to Mr. Booze, not only has Mound Bayou but the entire delta district of Mississippi has been severely stricken by drought since last August.

Conditions are steadily becoming worse due to the inability of farmers to meet their obligations and many of them are losing valuable farm lands as banks in the neighboring cities foreclose on their property.

Food, clothing, medicine and medical aid are needed to care for the people through the winter and early spring, he says.

Eugene P. Booze, Mound Bayou, Miss., Arranges For Farm Help to People

Age 3-28-31
New York
N.Y.

Eugene P. Booze, president of the Mound Bayou Foundation, and husband of Mrs. Mary C. Booze, Republican National Committeewoman from Mississippi has been conferring with large business interests of New York, Newark and Washington, relative to reorganizing the financial indebtedness of the farmers of his colony, and the raising of the necessary funds to make the cotton crop for 1931.

Mr. Booze, who, while in New York, was the guest of his son-in-law, Dr. Thornton H. Wood of 225 West 146th street, and Mrs. Fannie L. Wood of 402 West 153rd street, says that the delta country was hard hit by the drought. During December, January and February relief was given Mound Bayouans by the Red Cross. A change for the better is taking place, it is reported. Farmers are making application for Federal emergency loans, which are being approved and funds made available.

While in New York, Mr. Booze visited the Prudential Insurance Company of Newark, also Charles H. Hilles, Republican National Committeeman from New York discussing with the latter national politics.

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Christian Advocate

12-15-32

Cincinnati

Ohio

Mound Bayou

IN SPITE of the fact that I am a native Mississippian, it was not until November 30 of this year that I had the privilege of visiting Mound Bayou at the time of the session of the Upper Mississippi Conference, presided over by Bishop Clair on account of the slight illness of Bishop Jones.

Permit me to digress from my main purpose in this editorial to pay my respects to Bishop Clair and to the personnel of the Upper Mississippi Conference.

I have attended two Conferences this season over which Bishop Clair presided. He was never in better physical condition since he became bishop than he has been during this quadrennium. In fact, he seems now just coming up to his real standard in the handling of the duties and responsibilities of his office. His genial and courteous manner, his entire freedom from the "official mind," and his insistent interest in promoting the work of the Church according to our Discipline and traditions, make him universally respected and beloved by both ministers and laymen. It is unfortunate for us that the little change in the law regarding the retirement of bishops will rob us of his additional four years of service under the old law.

A finer and more brotherly group of ministers cannot be found in the connection than the members of the Upper Mississippi Conference. Some of the aggressive leadership of former years is lacking, perhaps, but in that fine spirit of unity, lack of factional fighting and jealousy, and the humble spirit of Christian brotherhood, there is not a more excellent group among us. A member of another denomination said to me that he had never seen a group of Christians conduct themselves better in that community than did these ministers and laymen of our Church.

Back to Mound Bayou. It was with a spirit of expectancy and genuine interest that I got off the train and looked about me to see a town of nearly a thousand inhabitants, with a supporting territory of many times that number entirely under the direction of my own race.

I was pleased to discover that our Negro leaders had been able to build a community strikingly similar to and not at all below the standard of similar communities in that part of the great Mississippi Delta country more seriously affected than any other portion of the South in the present economic depression. I discovered this: that in his own community and under his own leadership and initiative, the Negro had done not only better for himself, but that what he had done for himself was equal to that which white people had done for themselves in similar communities. Mound Bayou represents the best in churches, schools, homes, and the culture and spirit of its inhabitants that can be found even in larger towns in the state dominated by white people. It proves conclusively that Negroes are able to build for themselves communities that compare favorably with similar communities built and controlled by white people.

I was very much impressed with the personnel of the leaders of the community. Of course, the places of Montgomery, Green, and Banks of former years have not been filled, but Mound Bayou is not now lacking in constructive leadership. Mayor B. A. Green; Mr. E. P. Booze, whose wife is one of the Montgomeries and is Republican committeewoman for Mississippi; Mr. C. V. Thurmond, the postmaster, and many other leaders, rank well up to the standard of leaders in any similar communities without regard to race.

Of special interest is the fact that in a peculiar way the churches and church spirit dominate the community and are the centers of the community life. I saw a theater there but it was closed. There was no jail. The deputy sheriff, with whom I had the privilege of talking, was quite proud of the criminal record in the community. He stated proudly that he was filling a position, but that he had practically nothing to do.

In spite of the fact that all of the religious denominations are represented in the community, there is the finest possible spirit of Christian unity. The Conference was entertained by the whole community, members of other churches sharing alike the responsibility of giving to the Conference the excellent entertainment it received.

I left Mound Bayou confident that American Negroes are genuine Americans [illegible] given an opportunity, they will demonstrate their ability to build their communities and life after the American pattern, all propaganda to the contrary notwithstanding.

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Help For Mound Bayou

Commendable is the plan of President Roosevelt to rehabilitate and resettle Mound Bayou, only exclusive negro town in the United States, founded by the late Isaiah T. Montgomery, faithful body servant of Jefferson Davis.

Depression has brought doleful days to the Mound Bayou community. Many of the negro dwellers lost their homes and farms to banks and insurance companies under mortgage foreclosures, and were forced to become tenant farmers or share croppers.

Advertiser

No fault of their own—just the fate suffered by thousands of other farmers in the State.

Eugene Booze, president of the Mound Bayou Foundation, and son-in-law of Isaiah T. Montgomery, who has always managed to get along mighty well with the white folks in Mississippi, went to Washington recently and put the plight of his people personally before President Roosevelt. The Chief Executive was attentive and sympathetic. He at once directed the rural resettlement of the division of the Department of Agriculture to give the matter consideration.

The net result was a visit from Prof. Rexford Guy Tugwell, director of resettlement work, who spent several hours in Mound Bayou last Saturday in company with H. E. Reynolds, resettlement director for Mississippi. It was agreed to launch a plan whereby about 50 negro families will be placed back on the lands they formerly owned. The Government will acquire title to something like 15,000 acres of Bolivar County lands, and farmers will be given the usual period in which to make payments.

"My people owe a debt of everlasting gratitude to President Roosevelt for his kind and sympathetic action," says Eugene Booze. "We have been passing through the most trying period of our existence as a colony, fighting obstacles that plunged us into the depths of despair. Our troubles have been many, through no faults of our own, but we never lost hope, and the President's sympathy and substantial aid will help us to again become a happy and self-sustaining people."

The board of supervisors of Bolivar County adopted a resolution at its recent meeting cordially commending the plan of the rural resettlement administration, and it is sincerely to be hoped that holders of mortgages and other encumbrances on lands formerly owned by negroes of the Mound Bayou colony will not attempt to impose unreasonable terms of resale and thus thwart the plan that has been given personal approval by President Roosevelt.—Jackson Daily News.

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Mississippi.

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Farmers Gather At Annual Meeting; Hear Reports

Defender 1-30-37
Chicago Ill.

By DAVID W. KELLUM
(Staff Correspondent)

MOUND BAYOU, Miss., Jan. 29—(SPECIAL)—Braving a downpour of rain which has been falling here continuously since the first day of January, a thousand farmers and their wives from all sections of Bolivar and Sunflower counties jammed every available space in the auditorium of the County Training school Tuesday to attend the fifth annual membership meeting of the Mound Bayou Foundation, Inc.

It was the consensus of the officers as well as the vast throng that the session was the best ever held. This was evidenced by the fact that the farmers sat patiently throughout five hours and heard the reports of the officers of the Foundation; listened to a talk from the state administrator of the United States Resettlement Administration and discussed in details plans for the golden jubilee anniversary of the founding of this all-Race town, Mound Bayou—which is to be observed here during the week of July 11 to 17 inclusive.

Plan 50th Anniversary

Judging from the enthusiasm of the farmers and citizens of Mound Bayou, the coming celebration will be the greatest event of its kind ever staged in the Southland. E. P. Booze, president of the foundation said the committee of arrangements expects a record crowd of 100,000 in attendance during the six days. Included among this number will be President Franklin Roosevelt and the governors of at least twenty-two states. Other dignataries from all walks of life are expected to participate in the week's festivities.

Further emphasizing the importance of the coming anniversary celebration, President Booze pointed out that the object of the Foundation is to keep alive the pioneer spirit and patriotism of the founder, Isiah T. Montgomery and early settlers and to promote the general welfare of the town and colony.

"This year the foundation is charged with the responsibility of celebrating the golden jubilee anniversary of the founding of the colony," Mr. Booze said. "To that end we are calling upon scores of friends of both races to contribute at least $100,000 to make possible the success of the celebration."

Mr. Booze said he expected to get funds from the United States to help rehabilitate the colony and to improve the town.

The funds secured will be used, Mr. Booze said to float bonds for the municipality; to extend the water system; to improve the streets; to establish some kind of industry which will give the farmers employment when they are not engaged in the production of their crops; to repurchase land in the colony that was lost by the early settlers of their heirs during the depression and to refinance those who still hold their equity in the land.

At the conclusion of his annual address President Booze said the Foundation would launch a membership drive which he hoped would net them at least $100,000.

Deafening applause greeted Otis B. Casanova (white), state administrator of the U. S. Settlement project when he mounted the platform to tell the farmers what the bureau would do for them during the years 1937 and 1938.

"I am very glad to be here to give you some definite idea of the present status of our work in the Mound Bayou area," he began. "We made attempts this year to secure suitable land and to house at least 100 families and the funds had been set aside, but as you know, the unexpected drouth conditions prevailed in the midwest, thus the funds appropriated were diverted to this measure. Therefore our efforts were cut down."

40 Families Helped

The state administrator explained that the bureau already had on hand sufficient funds to cover 38 options, a total of 2,803 acres, which will, when completed, take care of 70 units. If the farmers can qualify for the land grants, Casanova said that of the 40 Race families to be given a chance to resettle, 30 of them would be in the Mound Bayou area. This statement was the signal for an outburst of applause.

The high point of the session was the reading of the annual address by President Booze who outlined in detail the work of the Foundation had done to help the farmers of both Bolivar and Sunflower counties and especially the citizens in the Mound Bayou area.

Other reports to be heard came from the secretary, C. V. Thurmond; Mayor B. A. Green, treasurer, and Prof. A. R. Taylor, historian and principal of the Bolivar County Training school

So well pleased were the farmers with the work of the Foundation under its present officers that they voted to elect the entire slate by acclamation upon recommendation of the committee on nomination, which included W. D. Anderson, chairman; Rev. A. W. Powell, Willie Brown, J J Burton and Mrs. Isaac Peterson.

The Foundation officers who will head the committee of arrangements for the 50th anniversary celebration follows: Eugene P. Booze, president; Theodore Woods, vice president; C. V. Thurmond, secretary; Minnie F. Collier, assistant secretary; Mayor Benjamin A. Green, treasurer and Prof. A. R. Taylor, historian. The board of directors are:

Eugene P Booze, Theodore Woods, Minnie F. Callier, C. V. Thurmond, Benjamin A. Green, Mary C. Booze, O. C. Norman, R. W. Jones, W. F. Davis, C. J. Christmas and D. H. Harvey, Sr.

The Foundation meeting got under way promptly at noon when the Rev. J. B. Price, pastor of Jerusalem Baptist church conducted the devotional exercises. Secretary Thurmond read the minutes of the last meeting which were followed by brief remarks from President Booze who took time out to extend sincere thanks to Robert S. Abbott, editor and publisher of **The Chicago Defender** for having assigned a reporter and cameraman to cover the meeting.

Appoint Committee

Rev. W. M. Lee, chief grand secretary of the Knights and Daughters of Tabor of Mound Bayou was introduced as were Emmett Ford, Mrs. Mary C. Booze, national Republican committeewoman of Mississippi; Mrs. Katie B. Aills, Rev. J. L. Joiner and George Norman of Boyle, Miss

The following were appointed to committees and later made very pleasing reports:

Membership: C. V. Thurmond, Minnie F. Collier, Isaac Peterson, B. A. Green.

Memorials: A. R. Taylor, Mrs. Mary Jordan and S. Marshall.

Resolutions: P. M. Smith, chairman, W. B. Norman, J. B. Terrell, J. W. Quinn, Rev. S. E. Pace.

Nominations: Prof. W. D. Anderson, chairman; Willie Brown, Rev A. W. Powell, J. J. Burton, and Mrs. Isaac Peterson

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Pres. Booze's Report

Defender 1-30-37

MOUND BAYOU, Miss., Jan. 29—(Special)—The following is the address and report delivered by Hon. Eugene P. Booze, president of the Mound Bayou Foundation, Inc., at the fifth annual membership meeting of the Foundation Tuesday.

The [illegible] follows:

To the members of the Mound Bayou Foundation, Inc.:—

Our charter and by-laws require all officers to render written reports of their activities during the fiscal years. This session being possibly the most important in the history of our foundation, in that we are charged with the responsibility of arranging for the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of our colony. I trust it will not be considered amiss nor a trespass upon your valuable time for me to recite briefly the [illegible] of the foundation and the object which it set out to accomplish in addition to a summary of my annual activities.

During the spring of 1927 the Mississippi Valley was visited with an overflow from the father of waters and its tributaries which caused many deaths and destroyed millons of dollars in property. A cry went out for federal aid which was heard by President Calvin Coolidge. He selected his Secretary of Commerce, the Honorable Herbert Hoover to take charge of the situation and administer relief through the American Red Cross. The people of the nation rallied to the call of Secretary Hoover almost as one individual.

I was selected as the representative of the Mayor of Mound Bayou to meet Secretary Hoover in Memphis on his first trip to the flood area. I was cordially received and the first order he issued gave me authority to select and employ such Negro doctors and nurses as I thought might be needed to relieve the distress of Negro refugees encamped at Cleveland. From that time until the rehabilitation was completed, I was consulted by Secretary Hoover regarding all phases of the flood situation.

Hoover Does His Bit

Mr. Hoover appeared to like and trust me. He sought my opinion on many vital and delicate matters. No suggestion or recommendation from me was denied. He expressed a desire to know more about Mound Bayou with a view of helping to further develop its mission.

I thought he was another Abraham Lincoln. I still believe he has a great human heart in his body. Quite naturally when the time came for me to show my appreciation I did not hesitate, although I had to do so in the face of great protest and strong opposition from my political associates.

Immediately after Mr. Hoover's nomination for the presidency in 1928, he wrote me a letter thanking Mrs. Booze and myself for our "fine support" and invited us to come to Washington to confer with him. I went to Washington and was again cordially received. I soon found out that he had been tempted by the lily whites of the south, and he wanted me to join in the movement. He thought the time had come to break up the solid democratic south. I told him I thought I knew the political situation in the south much better than he did, and I felt that he would be making a grave mistake to lend the weight of his great influence to such a movement. We agreed to disagree on that subject, but we did agree on other policies concerning the campaign and I gave him my cordial support.

After Mr. Hoover's election to the presidency, it was suggested to me by John A. Green of Dayton, Ohio and Roscoe Conkling Bruce of New York, two of the colony's former outstanding sons, that I should suggest to the citizens of Mound Bayou the importance of forming an organization through which we might present our claims for aid to President Hoover. This matter was discussed with Mayor Green and other leading citizens and the Mound Bayou Foundation was organized in the Mayor's office on April 9, 1929 with the following well known citizens serving as officials for the first year; Eugene P. Booze, president; C. V. Thurmond, secretary; B. A. Green, treasurer; Rev. Joseph Peterson, Rev. S. P. Felder, Rev. F. R. C. Durden, Rev. T. S. J. Pendleton, Rev. A A. Thompson, Rev. J. M. Walton, Prof. John H. Powell, R. W. Jones, J. M. Williamson, Jr.

Plan Celebration

At this meeting it was decided to celebrate the 42nd anniversary of the founding of the colony in the nature of a home coming week and the officers and directors pledged themselves to contribute their time free and pay $100 each to help defray the expenses of the celebration. The matter was presented to a number of our white friends and neighbors who joined heartily in the movement, contributing time and money.

Lester A. Walton, who was then a member of the staff of the famous "New York World" and now minister to Liberia, was invited to come to Mound Bayou to speak to our citizens, and to get up a prospectus of our proposed celebration. He came and spoke to a large mixed audience and joined with us in the movement.

All of this was courteously presented to President Hoover, but it appeared that he had become so involved in the "lily white" movement in the south, that he had lost interest in his previous expression and desire to aid his Negro friends anywhere, and especially at Mound Bayou. We did not lose courage, however, and continued our contention that we were entitled to proper consideration from our federal government. In this we received encouragement and aid from our own people and many substantial and influential white friends all over the nation.

Early in 1932 it developed that we would have to incorporate our foundation under the laws of Mississippi, and in keeping with the federal statutes, in order to apply for and receive aid from the federal government and other sources. Under the direction of Hon. Harvey C. Couch of Arkansas, who was then a director of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, a charter was drawn and submitted to our attorney; it was modified and approved and signed by Governor Conner on February 2[illegible] and adopted on February 25, 1932 by the members of our foundation.

The officials of the foundation again presented their claim for aid, but it was found that the Reconstruction Finance Corporation did not then have the authority to aid us.

Senator Pat Harrison Helps

It was nearing the time for the inauguration of President Franklin Roosevelt. We were advised by our good friend Senator Pat Harrison, to wait until the new administration took office and worked out a policy to aid such organizations as ours. We accepted his advice and when the time arrived we again presented our claims and without hesitation received encouragement not only from such characters as Oscar Johnston, Harvey Couch, Hugh Humphreys, Senators Harrison and Stephens, and Congressman Will M. Whittington, but also from President and Mrs. Roosevelt, Dr. Rexford Guy Tugwell and Dr. W. W. Alexander, administrator and assistant administrator, respectively of the Resettlement Administration, through whom a project book was made up by J. H. B. Evans and D. C. Jones, members of our race, who were sent here for that purpose. Their proposal was approved by the state and regional directors, and an allotment of $600,000 was set aside to launch the proposed Mound Bayou Resettlement Project, after a personal visit and inspection of our colony by Dr. Tugwell and quite a number of his associates.

Prof. C. H. Wilkes of Greenwood, Miss., was selected as project manager, Mayor B. A. Green and E. P. Booze, option takers, Isaac Peterson, clerk, and R. W. Jones, assistant to the appraisers, and work was begun to secure options on the land available for that purpose. Some four thousand acres were optioned—through the assistance of Evern Jones, a native white Mississippian, sent here to assist us in the movement. Shortly afterwards Prof. Wilkes was relieved together with all the other members of our race without formal explanation, but we were told that the money allotted to Mound Bayou had been used among draught stricken farmers in the northwest, and that our allotment would be restored after congress convened in January 1937. In the meantime our proposed project was placed under the direction of Otis B. Casanova, State Administrator, with headquarters at Cleveland, who is here today to tell us where we are.

Through it all our officials have never lost hope or courage. We have continued our efforts to make friends for the rehabilitation and further development of our town and colony, and we are going ahead with our plans for improvement, and the celebration of our fiftieth anniversary with full faith in ourselves, and assurance of aid from our friends all over the state and nation. In this we again call upon our citizens and members of the foundation to faint not and all will be well.

I also wish to submit herewith an itemized statement of the funds received and disbursed by me since our last annual meeting and reported to our secretary and treasurer.

Receipts

1936

Sept. 30—Eugene P. Booze, contributed from Resettlement Administration salary, $202.50.

Oct. 3—W. W. Gilbert, telephone bill, $2.15.

Dec. 31—Andrew J. Polk, purchase price office heater, $9.80.

1937

Jan. 9—A. W. Richard, telephone services, $2.50.

Jan. 15—Eugene V. Wood, life membership fee, $25.

Jan. 15—Fannie L. Wood, life membership fee, $25.

Jan. 15—Mary C. Wood, life membership fee, $25.

Jan. 15—Fred L. Booze, Sr., life membership fee, $25.

Jan. 15—Mary C. Booze, contribution, $2.33.

Total receipts, $319.28.

Disbursements

1936

May 16—Southern Bell Telephone Co., April bill, $8.96.

May 30—Isaac Peterson, clerk hire, $22.50.

July 2—Carl C. Davis, stationery, $3.50.

July 17—J. W. Covington, printing bill, $5.10.

Aug. 7—A. R. Taylor, clerk hire, $67.50.

Aug. 13—J. W. Covington, printing 1,000 envelopes, $5.50.

Aug. 15—New Deal Print Shop, printing 500 dodgers, $3.50.

Aug. 18—Southern Bell Telephone Co., July bill, $7.70.

Aug. 22—A. R. Taylor, clerk hire, $67.50.

Sept. 12—Southern Bell Telephone Co., August bill, $10.56.

Sept. 22—A. R. Taylor, clerk hire, $67.50.

Oct. 17—Southern Bell Telephone Co., September bill, $5.60.

Nov. 9—Southern Bell Telephone Co., October bill, $7.50.

Dec. 4—J. W. Covington, printing 500 Envelopes, $3.

Dec. 23—Southern Bell Telephone Co., November bill, $7.81.

1937

Jan. 9—Elmer E. Heningburg, stenographic services, $3.

Jan. 9—Carl C. Davis, stationery, $1.95.

Jan. 12—New Deal Print Shop, printing 500 post cards, $1.50.

Jan. 12—Meeks Drug Store, 12 duplicate receipt books, I indelible pencil, $1.10.

Jan. 13—Bolivar Commercial, I typewriter ribbon, 75c.

Jan. 14—Andrew J. Polk, post cards and postage, $2.25.

Jan. 15—New Deal Print Shop, printing 500 dodgers, $3.50; publishing notice, $1.50.

Jan. 15—C. V. Thurmond, Jr., circulating notices, 25c.

Jan. 15—W. W. Canton, Jr., circulating notices, 25c.

Jan. 15—Elmer E. Heningburg, stenographic services, $7.50.

Jan. 15—Andrew J. Polk, janitor's services, $2.

Total disbursements, $319.28.

Respectfully submitted,

Eugene P. Booze,
President

Mound Bayou Plans President's Ball

1-24-37

MOUND BAYOU, Miss., Jan. 23.—In co-operation with the effort to wipe out infantile paralysis, Mound Bayou is sponsoring a Birthday Ball for the president Tuesday night, Feb. 2, to raise funds for that purpose.

Being an all-negro town, Mound Bayou is probably the only place in the nation where such an effort is being put forth by negroes.

Memphis, Tenn., Com'rcial Appeal
May 24, 1937

Deserves Recognition

Mississippi will do well if it lends every encouragement to plans to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of Mound Bayou.

Unique in that it is Mississippi's all-negro town, Mound Bayou stands as a credit to its builders and to those who have contributed to its progress.

It was in 1887 that Isaiah Montgomery, born in slavery on the Warren County plantation of Jefferson Davis, promoted the idea of a negro community in the swamps of Bolivar County. Working side by side with their white neighbors, they cleared the land, set up a government and went about establishing themselves as peaceable and useful citizens. That they have done this is attested by the substantial support they have always received from their white neighbors, and by the fact that Mound Bayou has known no serious disorders in these 50 years.

Mound Bayou Was Founded In Year 1867

7-3-37

Col. Roscoe Simmons To Be Founder's Day Speaker

Special to Journal and Guide

MOUND BAYOU, Miss.—Final plans for the observance of the 50th anniversary of this famous all-colored town during the week beginning July 11 have been completed, it was announced this week by Mayor Benjamin A. Green and the Citizens Committee of which he is chairman.

Col. Roscoe Conklin Simmons, nationally known orator and political figure, is scheduled to deliver the anniversary address on Monday, July 12. The date has been observed as Founder's Day in this territory for more than a quarter of a century, having been started by the Renovater's Society in 1909.

MAYOR HARVARD GRADUATE

The oficial exercises were placed in the hands of Mayor Green and a Citizens Committee by vote of the people. Mayor Green, a law graduate from Harvard University, is a son of one of the founders, Benjamin T. Green.

The executive committee is composed of Mayor Green as chairman; Mrs. Evelyn B. Washington, secretary; A. R. Taylor, Caholine Keys, F. H. Miller, Pincie Montgomery, C. H. Magruder, F. D. Carter and O. C. Norman. They have organized what promises to be a memorable event.

Mound Bayou is in the center of the richest agricultural region of the great American delta. Prosperous Negro farmers and planters grip and the youth sank out of acres of the finest farming land in the United States. The cotton produced here ranks the best product of the cotton world.

FOUNDED IN 1867

Established in 1867, Mound Bayou has continued under official control of the earliest colonists and their children. Three years after it was established it sent Isaiah T. Montgomery one of its leaders, to the Mississippi Constitutional Convention of 1890.

It has, since its beginning, been a leading influence in the cultural and commercial life of the state.

The schools and churches of this city are rated among the best in this section. Eminent men interested in the development of Mound Bayou include Collie P. Huntington, Stuyvestant Fish, Andrew Carnegie and Julius Rosenwald. Although its officials have always been colored men, the city has manitained cordial relations with neighboring towns.

MAYOR EIGHT TIMES

Mayor Green, a native son, represents the largest landholding element of the settlers. Recently he was reelected mayor for the eighth consecutive term. His mother, Mrs. E. P. G. Francis, conducted for many years the largest mercantile establishment in this section and is still one of the largest planters in the county.

The city represents the race's oldest municipal effort to demonstrate self-government and self-emancipation.

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MOUND BAYOU'S FETE ATTRACTS THOUSANDS

Commercial Appeal

Delta Negroes Desert Fields and Join Celebration

ROSCOE SIMMONS TALKS

7-13-37

Former Resident Recalls Highlights In History of Town—Jesse Owens To Feature Homecoming Day Today

Memphis, Tenn.

Special to The Commercial Appeal

MOUND BAYOU, Miss., July 12.—Cotton fields in Bolivar and adjacent counties were abandoned today as thousands of negroes trekked here to attend the second day's celebration of a week of festivities, commemorating the founding of the town 50 years ago by the late Isaiah T. Montgomery and Benjamin T. Green.

With money in their pockets from chopping cotton at the rate of $1 per day and with the best prospects of a bumper crop in many years, it was a happy throng that came here.

Former Resident Speaks

Delta watermelons were brought in by the truck load and thousands were sold during the day.

Chief interest in today's program centered in the address of Dr. Roscoe Conklin Simmons of Chicago, publicist and former resident of Mound Bayou, who spoke at the Bolivar County College at 3 o'clock. Simmons is the nephew of the late Booker T. Washington and is a native of Aberdeen.

Simmons recalled in his talk the dedication of the Mound Bayou Oil Mill in 1914, when the structure was valued at $50,000. At this event, the late C. P. J. Mooney, editor of The Commercial Appeal, and Booker T. Washington were the principal speakers.

Tribute Paid Founders

"Two names are again bright," said Simmons in his address. "Two names enrolled among American pioneers, Isiah T. Montgomery and Benjamin Green, branches of the same tree.

"They had been attached to the home of Jefferson Davis before the Civil War and erudition and character of that kingdom shone in them. In 1887 they settled in the forest near where the town of Mound Bayou now stands and were bold against the treachery of nature.

"Mound Bayou as they envisioned it would be proof against challenge; proof that in the bosom of their people brightly burned the fires of freedom.

"A million Mississippians spoke through them. The prophets lived again. Upon soil that had felt the bondsmen's tread, they erected a government among former slaves and invited the study of those more accustomed to the ways of free men.

Celebrate Victory

"In conquering the swamps about them, in overcoming countless doubts and fears that struggled in the breasts of the few, to these then forbidding fields they captured the admiration of their fellowmen.

"Today the people of Jefferson Davis and the people of Montgomery and Green are handclasped in the joyful hour when we celebrate the fiftieth year of one of the great American victories over circumstance and the sorrows of evil days."

Tonight the Louis and Braddock pictures were shown as entertainment for the visitors and will be repeated tomorrow night.

Benjamin A. Green, son of the founder of Mound Bayou and mayor since 1919, was master of today's ceremonies. He was the first child born in the town.

Owens Arrives Today

Tomorrow will be homecoming day, with John A. Green of Dayton, Ohio, also a son of the founder, the principal speaker. Green is executive secretary of the national Negro Y. Attending tomorrow's celebration will be representatives from 100 negro lodges in North Mississippi.

Wide interest is also being manifested in the arrival of Jesse Owens, Ohio State University Olympic star, who will demonstrate his ability as the world's fastest sprinter and broad jumper.

Wednesday will be fraternal day, with J. Finley Wilson of Washington, D. C., grand exalted ruler of the National Colored Elks, as speaker.

Thursday will be Delta Day, with Lieut. George W. Lee of Memphis, author of "Beale Street" and "River George," the principal speaker.

Farmers' Day Friday

On Friday, Farmers' Day, agricultural products will be displayed, with $100 to be awarded in prizes. James P. Davis of Little Rock, connected with the U. S. Department of Agriculture, will be the speaker.

Festivities will close Saturday at noon with a barbecue.

Attending the celebration are Col. John C. Robinson, ace negro flier, a former member of Emperor Haile Selassie's royal air force; J. W. Hale, Nashville, president of Tennessee State Institute for Colored Youths; Webster L. Porter, editor of the East Tennessee News, Knoxville; Cary B. Lewis, staff of Chicago Defender, and Annie M. Malone, founder of Poro College, Chicago.

Negro Village Goes To Town In Celebration

Advertiser

MOUND BAYOU, MISS., July 13.—(AP)—Red, white and blue lights twinkled far into the night and cast weird shadows of hundreds of carefree negroes celebrating the 50th anniversary of this all-negro community here tonight.

7-14-37

Gay, high-pitched laughter and the soft Southern drawl of delta darkies beat a steady accompaniment to throbbing music while shuffling feet danced away the hours.

In the vernacular, Mound Bayou and its neighbors were having themselves a time and remembering that 50 years ago a group of former slaves accepted a railroad's concession and formed this town—a symbol of the initiative and progressiveness of their race.

Montgomery Ala.

A sound truck shuttled back and forth on main street blaring out the strains of popular dance music, most of it the "blues" originated by the old negro music master of Memphis' Beale Street—W. C. Handy.

There were very few cotton hands left for the field work in this section, for most of them were here dancing to the throb of "The St. Louis Blues," "Beale Street Blues," "Memphis Blues," and other feet-tickling tunes.

Watermelon stands and concessions selling hot fish sandwiches, barbecue and soda pop did a rushing business along the main drag of the town boasting an all-negro population of 2,000. This force of home folks was augmented by 3,000 visitors.

John A. Green, of Dayton, Ohio, a son of a founder of the town and executive secretary of the National Negro U. M. C. A., praised the town's leaders for their progressiveness.

"It goes to show," he said, "that with opportunity the negro can progress. We must have united leadership to a higher standard of citizenship."

Mound Bayou, All-Negro City, Celebrates 50th Anniversary

Advertiser 7-12-37 Montgomery Ala.

MOUND BAYOU, MISS., July 11.—(AP) — Mound Bayou—to the colored man symbolic of an idea of freedom and initiative born in the heart of a former slave—surveyed a half century of successful enterprise today.

Memorial services in honor of the men and women who founded this all-negro town in the heart of the rich Mississippi delta country 50 years ago, were held this afternoon inaugurating a week's celebration commemorating the achievements of five decades.

Flags and bunting bedecked the "main drag" of the town of 2,000 negroes, who look only to members of their own race for their government, their banking, their merchandise and their farm products. Six thousand others in the adjacent farm country call Mound Bayou their "town."

Mayor B. A. Oreen, serving his eighth consecutive term, gazed proudly at the multitude, as he and his committee made plans for the rest of the week's program—old-fashioned barbecues, parades, dances, ball games and speechmakings by negro orators held in esteem by Mound Bayou.

These will include Col. Roscoe Conkling Simmons, of Chicago, who speaks tomorrow, and Lieut. George W. Lee, of Memphis, the author of "Beale Street," "River," and other books.

Lieut. Lee has been chosen for the speaker "Delta Day," on Thursday, because the delta is inseparably linked with the history of Mound Bayou.

"Wherever I am when the name 'delta' is called," Lieut. Lee says, a picture of white cotton fields, waving cornfields and swelling river bottoms rises before me as if out of a dream. I can see the farmers, rising at the first blush of dawn, making their way to these fields, and moving slowly up and down row after row, pushing their plow-shares deep into the fresh brown earth. I can hear the echoes of their morning songs as they stand there deep in the cottonfields with hoes in hands and their faces dripping with sweat."

Lee said this picture of drudgery apparently inspired I. T. Montgomery, former body servant of President Jefferson Davis, of the Confederacy, to found Mound Bayou on delta land through which a railroad laid its tracks to furnish transportation for men and their products.

MOUND BAYOU CELEBRATION COMES TO END

Personalities From All Parts of Country Attend Festivities

By NAT WILLIAMS

MOUND BAYOU, Miss.—Saturday's community barbecue marked the end of a crowded week of visitors, famous speakers, noted personalities, and milling town and country sight-seers for the fiftieth anniversary of this oldest all-Negro community, Mound Bayou, Miss.

The celebration opened solemnly enough with a memorial service in honor of Isaiah T. Montgomery and Benjamin T. Green and other early settlers. Mayor B. A. Green conducted the services at the Bolivar County Training School auditorium. Later wreathes were placed on the graves of early settlers who were buried in the local cemetery.

Roscoe Simmons Speaks

Monday was a gala day featured by the address of Roscoe C. Simmons. A crowd of several thousands packed the school's auditorium to hear Simmons apply his stirrring forensics to the history and background of this community where he formerly resided.

The address of John A. Green Tuesday was a plea that his former neighbors unite behind progressive leadership and restore to Mound Bayou the promise and prosperity which were the aims of the first settlers.

Hon. J. Finley Wilson, grand exalted ruler of the Elks, spoke Wednesday, Fraternal day. Delegations of Elks from all the Delta towns in Mississippi were present to hear him.

Deta Day Thursday

Thursday, Delta Day, was featured by the speech of Hon. George W. Lee, Memphis business man and author. Friday, Farmers' day,

Defender 7-24-37

Mound Bayou Anniversary Celebra
Draws Visitors From All Over Country

MOUND BAYOU, Miss., July 23—The 50th anniversary celebration of the founding of this town, brought visitors from all sections of the state and country. While addresses were delivered at the Bolivar county school house, and events were taking place at the new Mound Bayou airport, inaugurated by Col. John C. Robinson, under the auspices of the Mound Bayou Foundation. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Booze was constantly kept open to receive friends, where real southern hospitality was enjoyed.

This home, located in the center of the town, surrounded by large shade trees and blooming flowers, made it an ideal place for guests to assemble. The double parlors and massive porch, screened in, was constantly filled with prominent folk who enjoyed the hospitality of the Booze family and their daughter, Mrs. Eugene Woods.

Displays Real Hospitality

Mrs. Booze, with her graciousness and loveliness, was always alert to see that every visitor was given a seat at the dining table and be served with a healthy breakfast, luncheon and dinner. This hospitality did not stop here: in the evening, amid a moonlit sky, there were garden parties, and friends came from far and near and enjoyed these brilliant events immensely.

Among the early house guests to arrive was Mrs. Annie M. Malone, who flew here from Gulfport, in the plane of Col. John C. Robinson. Both are from Chicago. Following their arrival Sunday were Dr. and Mrs. R. L. Johnson, Mrs. H. L. Allen, Mrs. Fredinah Divers, Misses Washington and Allen, and Robert Garett, of Jackson; Mr. and Mrs. Robert Booze, Vicksburg; Mr. and Mrs. George Miller, Helena, Ark.; Mrs. L. J. Miller, Yazoo City; Dr. and Mrs. H. M. Profitt, Helena, Ark.; Mrs. Cozetta Cooper and son, Mrs. Nellie Malbery and daughter, James Gilliam and Bennie McCall, Clarksdale;

Dr. Watson, Pine Bluff, Ark.; A. J. Finch, Braden; Atty. Earl John, New York City; Jesse Owens, Cleveland, Ohio; Atty. and Mrs. Dan Bowles and family, St. Louis, Mo.; Mrs. Julia Knighten and daughter, Mrs. Marie King and Montgomery Mosby, grandson of the late Isaiah T. Montgomery, founder of Mound Bayou, all of St. Louis, Mo.; Mrs. R. A. Buyard, Oklahoma City, Okla.; A. L. Holsey, Tuskegee Institute, Ala.; Mr. and Mrs. Scott Bonds, Arkansas; Mrs. Kelly, Col. John C. Robinson, Cary B. Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Bell, Travis Bell and Joe Muldrow.

Mrs. R. L. Johnson, Jackson, old friend of the Booze family, assisted in receiving. The townspeople came in droves to meet the guests. On Wednesday, a party of white students from Co-operative Hillhouse, called to visit with Jesse Owens, many of them being college mates. Here again the graciousness of Mrs. Booze and that of her daughter, Mrs. Woods was observed.

Birthday Surprise Party

Wednesday, July 14 was Mr. Booze's birthday. He was a busy man throughout the week. This night he came home and much to his surprise, the table was set and his charming daughter ushered him where a dozen friends were seated. It was a surprise to "Daddy." He was presented several gifts and the "man of the town" was made happy; then in a few brief words he thanked the donors and welcomed his friends. Those attending the stag were: Jesse Owens, Cleveland, O.; Col. John C. Robinson, Chicago; Atty. John Eardlie John, New York City; Cary B. Lewis, Chicago; Atty. Dan Bowles, St. Louis, Mo.; Dr. Hosea Proffit and George Miller, Helena, Ark.; Dr. R. L. Johnson, Jackson; A. L. Holsey, Tuskegee Institute, Ala.; Travis Bell and Frank Browning, Chicago, and A. J. Finch, Brandon.

Mrs. Booze, the hostess, is one of the country's best known club workers. She is preparing to attend the National Association of Colored Women, meeting in Fort Worth, Tex., with her daughter, Mrs. Woods. She is a member of the Republican National committe from Mississippi. Mr. Booze is a successful farmer, whose thousands of acres are now blooming with cotton. It was through him that Col. Robinson and Jesse Owens made their debut in Mississippi, giving the Race members of this state a chance to see these noted celebrities.

Later in the fall, Mrs. Malone expects to return again to be the guest of Mrs. Booze and others in the lower Mississippi section.

produced a crowd of more than 1,000 Negro farmers who gathered to listen to the words of Hon. James P. Davis, member of the U. S. agriculture department.

Saturday was designated Field day, in which the barbecue, field events and other forms of entertainment marked the close of the celebration.

Old citizens remarked that the greatest crowds in 25 years thronged the streets of the little town during the fiftieth anniversary celebration.

Jesse Owens in Exhibition

Noted visitors from all over the nation were present throughtout the week. Autmobiles bearing tags from as far west as California, and as far east as New York, as well as from points both north and south filled every inch of available parking space about the town's public buildings and business places. places.

Jesse Owens, noted Olympic runner, visited the city during the week, remaining two days, and giving an exhibition of his athletic prowess before an estimated crowd of several thousands. He gave an exhibition of running and broad-jumping competing at a handicap against both colored and white athletes of this section.

Col. John C. Robinson, noted aviator, remained in the community during the entire week. He flew over the city in a $10,000 Stinson plane each day, carrying up passengers and giving flying demonstrations.

Roosevelt Sends Congratulations

A letter of congratulation was received from President Franklin D. Roosevelt, in which he commended the Mound Bayou experiment to Mayor Green and wished the community continued progress and achievement.

Numerous other congratulatory letters and communications were received by the Mayor and his citizens committee who were responsible for the organization and success of the celebration.

Mayor Green voiced the expressed sentiments of many Mound Bayoians by stating at one time during the celebration that the event might be regarded as the beginning of a renaissance for this town located as it is in the heart of the richest farming area in the Delta, and surrounded by a population almost 80 per cent Negro.

The members and officials of the Mound Bayou chamber of commerce were active during the celebration pointing out to visitors the business and industrial possibilities of their town, and offering inducements to posible settlement there.

Towns and Settlements-1937 ✓ Mississippi.

RACES

Mound Bayou

7-26-37

Bolivar County lies down on the rich delta lands of Mississippi opposite the mouth of the Arkansas River. In 1887, when the track of what is now the dinky Yazoo & Mississippi Valley Railroad was laid, Bolivar's rich bottomlands were an uninhabited jungle. The railroad, eager for customers along the route, but fearing that white men would die off under the hot summer sun, decided to try Negroes. Isaiah T. Montgomery, a onetime slave of Jefferson Davis, and his cousin Benjamin T. Green were induced to start a colony. Thus was founded the town of Mound Bayou. Last week every day was carnival in Mound Bayou, for it was celebrating its 50th anniversary as a self-governing 100% Negro community.

Mound Bayou had something well worth celebrating. Since the colonists moved in, usually paying $7 an acre for their land ($1 down and the rest in five equal annual installments), they have come a long way. Mound Bayou proper now has about 800 inhabitants, the entire colony about 8,000 colonists and 30,000 acres under cultivation, rich lands which for the most part produce premium long-staple cotton. Today the eldest daughter of Isaiah Montgomery, Mrs. Eugene P. Booze, is Republican National Committeewoman for Mississippi. Mayor Benjamin A. Green, a son of Founder Green and the first child born in Mound Bayou, is a graduate of Harvard Law School.

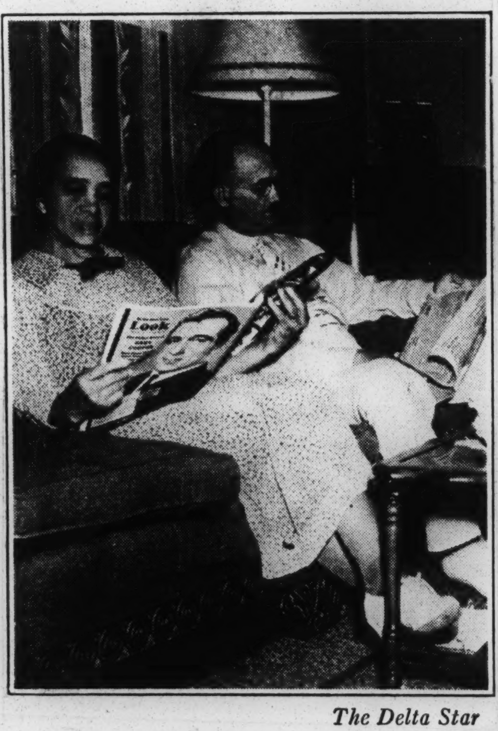
Not one but two celebrations were put on for Mound Bayou's golden anniversary, one by Mayor Green, the other by Mrs. Booze's husband. First was the mayor's celebration, beginning on Sunday, with six Negro preachers participating in Memorial Services for the Founders, carrying on at 12:05 a. m. that night with a breakfast dance in the Casino Ballroom over Henry Bolton's store, a speech by the eminent Negro Statesman Roscoe Conkling Simmons (familiar to all attendants at Republican National Conventions), and a showing of motion pictures of the fight of the century: Joe Louis beating World Champion James J. Braddock (25¢ admission). And so on to Friday.

Mr. Booze's celebration lasted all week too, backed by the Mound Bayou Foundation and white American Legion posts of neighboring towns.*

He had a Jesse Owens Day, which he characterized simply as "the most colorful of all days." It was Mr. Booze's birthday. Sprinter Owens gave Mississippi's champion high-school sprinter, Berkeil Naylor of Cleveland, Miss. (white), a five-yard handicap, beat him easily. Mr. Booze's No. 2 attraction was an Aviator, Colonel John C. Robinson, "the Brown Condor of Ethiopia,"* who landed at the Mound Bayou Airport with Mrs. Annie M. Turnbo Malone, president of Chicago's Negro Poro College.

The illustrated 60-page anniversary program put out by Mayor Green graphically summed up Mound Bayou's history:

Pioneer Days. "The early pioneers faced many hardships. . . . Their companions were forest bears, panthers, deer, wolves, wildcats and raccoons. The hoot of the owl drifting on the nocturnal air above the drone of countless insects and the croaking of frogs made the night forbidding. . . . [One pioneer's account]: 'On one occasion I was out with some other gentlemen, John Montgomery, Morgan Thurston and Alex Wilbert in search of a hog which I owned and which was missing, when we were brought face to face with a large she bear and two small cubs.' "



The Delta Star

MR. & MRS. EUGENE P. BOOZE

Fifty years ago, stubborn bears; this year, Jesse Owens and Joe Louis.

New Deal Days. "Mound Bayou counts among its business, professional and industrial enterprises, two gins, three blacksmith shops, one garage, one tailor, two restaurants, five service stations, two contractors, two doctors, one dentist, one lawyer, one grist mill, one saw mill, two undertakers,† twelve groceries, and meat markets, one drugstore, one 5¢ & 10¢ store, one billiard parlor, one barber shop, one gun & locksmith and one newspaper. . . . Our municipal government is stable. Its wisdom is attested by the fact that many needed improvements have been foregone to prevent its citizens from being burdened with debts. The outstanding obligations of the municipality are less than $12,000. We have no jail because we don't need one. In the entire community dwell 8,000 Negroes and we have not had a capital crime in 13 years. . . . The citizens of Mound Bayou dwell in security. They are the heirs of freedom . . . and will forever look with disdain on acts of tyranny."

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*Fifty Mound Bayouans enlisted during the War. All returned home, several severely wounded.

*Not to be confused with Hubert Fauntleroy Julian, "The Black Eagle of Harlem" who also flew in Ethiopia. "Brown Condor" Robinson went to Ethiopia as a newshawk, became Haile Selassie's personal pilot.

†The Delta Burial Corp. advertises in the Anniversary program: "Persons from the age of 21 to 45, for the small sum of 25¢ per month, are eligible for the following service: Semi Half Couch Casket and Box, Embalming, Robe and Hearse Service anywhere in the State of Mississippi. . . . We are in a position to have four funerals a day, with each 200 miles apart, and have each of them at the same hour."

WILL SEEK AID OF GOVERNOR TO PLAN FOR ESTABLISH STATE FOR NEGRO RACIAL GROUP

7-29-37

Declaring that the success of the Negro racial group in operating the all-Negro town of Mound Bayou, Miss., as he witnessed during attendance at the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of that town last week proved convincing of the practicability of colonizing Negroes in America, Attorney W. L. Porter told the large Sunday morning audience of Mount Zion Baptist Church. He stated that he would seek cooperation of Gov. Gordon Browning in support of such a plan. Attorney Porter was designated by Gov. Browning to represent Tennesseans at the celebration. The attorney was invited to share the hour of the morning services by Rev. D. A. Jackson, to give a report of his observations at Mound Bayou.

"I have been asked whether the town of Mound Bayou has mammoth department stores, street cars and skyscrapers," Attorney Porter told his interested hearers, and in answering negatively, I emphasized the fact that Negroes of New York City, Chicago, Pittsburgh, and others centers where the populations are fifty times larger, do not carry on any such business.

Factions A Plenty

"You may question as to whether factionalism exists among the citizenship of the all-Negro town, and my answer is yes, but when the Negro factions bring their contentions to an end, they are still in possession of whatever the division arose over.

"There are no inmical forces of white people in Mound Bayou to stir up strife among the Negroes with a view of furthering their selfish ends, and there is an appreciable absence of that despicable element of Negroes who allow themselves to be used as tools in the hands of designing and greedy white politicians as they seek to destroy influence of the earnest, thoughtful element of the racial group. Negroes of Mound Bayou have their political differences, but when the election is over and the votes are counted. Negroes are in such offices as mayor, recorder, police officers and other like positions," Attorney Porter continued.

Ticket Agent A Negro.

"It was a pleasure to sleep and eat in the home of a Negro mayor, once in a lifetime; to accept his courtesies at his modern and attractive offices, realizing there were no discomforts on his part because of any race problems. At the Mound Bayou station, a young black man courteously sells tickets and the affairs at the town's post office are handled by a member of the racial group."

The suggestion of the speaker that a town with a mayor the type of Deacon A. R. Wheeler, and other officials like Shadrach H. Carter, retired mail carrier; Green Simpson and Wallace Burke, may prove to the best interests of the Negro racial group in bringing about an amicable solution of the ever present race problem in our land, brought forth hearty amens from the large and representative audience, and Attorney Porter added,

"in my report to Governor Browning, I will request his consideration of a plan that will set apart some section of Tennessee for an all-Negro town to be operated and controlled wholly by members of that racial group."

The speaker declared that it is possible that the Federal government might appropriate a sum sufficient to support such a plan.

Towns and Settlements - 1937

Mississippi. (Fiftieth Anniversary of Mound Bayou.)

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OWENS TO FEATURE MOUND BAYOU CARD

Negro Sprinter Will Be Honored At Celebration

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tenn.
7-6-37

MOUND BAYOU, Miss., July 5.—Jesse Owens, famed Olympic sprint and broad jump star, will be honored with "Owens Day" on Wednesday, July 14, during the 50th anniversary celebration of the founding of Mound Bayou, officials announced today. He will be the feature of the program, carded July 11-17, inclusive.

Owens will give an exhibition under the sponsorship of the American Legion, Everard Lee Post No 175 of Merigold. Governor Frank Murphy of Michigan has appointed Joe Louis, world heavyweight boxing champion, to head that state's delegation to the celebration.

Plans have been made to seat 4,000 for the track events.

ALL-NEGRO TOWN TO MARK ANNIVERSARY

50th Birthday To Feature History—No Carnival

Post

By United Press.

MOUND BAYOU, Miss., July 9.—This all-Negro colony will celebrate the 50th anniversary of its founding, July 11-17.

Featured speakers on the program are Gov. Hugh White, J. S. Vandiver, superintendent of education, and Oscar Johnson, manager of the Government cotton pool.

7-9-37

Birmingham, Ala.

First settlers of the colony came from the Mississippi plantation of Jefferson Davis, president of the Confederate States of America. The colony's founder, Isaiah T. Montgomery, was educated and trained on the Davis plantation. He remained on the Davis Bend plantation during the war.

Mound Bayou, near Cleveland, Miss., has a population of 835 Negroes. The mayor, B. A. Green, was graduated from Harvard Law School. Another resident, Eugene P. Booze, is a leader in the Republican Party organization in the state.

White persons of Mississippi often have aided the colony.

The town has no jail.

The celebration will not include a carnival of side shows and games but will review the founding and history of the town. Chief entertainment will be dances, with music by Negro orchestras.

Mound Bayou Will Celebrate Exploits of Negro Leaders

7-6-37

Special to The Commercial Appeal

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tenn.

MOUND BAYOU, Miss., July 5.—Two negroes whose exploits received international recognition will participate in the 50th anniversary of Mound Bayou's founding as a negro town. The celebration is set for July 11-17.

Jesse Owens, whose speed made him an Olympic champion, and John C. Robinson, "Black Eagle of the Air," who flew in the service of Ethiopia, will be featured on the program of entertainments and sports.

Owens will give an exhibition of his sprinting and broad jumping Wednesday afternoon with seating and parking arrangements provided for 4,000 whites and negroes, according to Eugene P. Booze, president of the Mound Bayou Foundation. The day has been officially designated Jesse Owens Day. The champion's appearance is sponsored by Everard Lee Post, American Legion, Merigold.

Robinson will land at Mound Bayou about 2 o'clock Sunday afternoon. Following a lecture on his Ethiopian adventures, Robinson will make passenger and exhibition flights throughout the week.

7-6-37

The celebration commemorates the pioneer spirit of Isaiah T. Montgomery who founded the town in a wilderness for his own and for the exemplary spirit of the founder which brought him through slavery to freedom and recognition as a leader among Mississippi negroes. Benjamin Green and J. P. T. Montgomery, his cousin who aided in the town's founding, also will share in the glory that the present generation of residents expresses through the week's celebration. Isaiah Montgomery was a slave of Jefferson Davis.

The week's program follows:

Sunday, Memorial Day; Monday, Founder's Day; Tuesday, Agricultural Day; Wednesday, Educational and Jesse Owens Day; Thursday, Business Day; Friday, Achievement and Better Homes Day, and Saturday, Field Day.

All-Negro Town Will Celebrate Its Achievements

Telegraph

MOUND BAYOU, Miss., July 11 (AP).—Mound Bayou—to the colored man symbolic of an idea of an idea of freedom and initiative born in the heart of a former slave—surveyed a half century of successful enterprise today.

7-12-37

Macon, Ga.

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Memorial services in honor of the men and women who founded this all-Negro town in the heart of the rich Mississippi delta country 50 years ago, were held this week, inaugurating a week's celebration commenorating the achievement of five decades.

Flags and bunting bedecked the "main drag" of the town of 2,000 Negroes, who look only to members of their own race for their government, their banking, their merchandise and their farm products. Six thousand others in the adjacent farm country call Mound Bayou their "town."

Mayor B. A. Oreen, serving his eighth consecutive term, gazed proudly at the multitude, as he and his committee made plans for the best of the week's program—old fashioned barbecue, parades, dances, ball games and speechmakings by Negro orators held in esteem by Mound Bayou.

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Mississippi.

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Living In Complete Self-Respect In A Unique All-Black Community

Unusual Story Of Mound Bayou, Mississippi, Told By Northern Observer After Visit There

By WEBB WALDRON

In Survey Graphic

I had journeyed here to the rich delta lands of Mississippi because the bare fact of a self-governing all-Negro town excited my curiosity. The scene I had just witnessed was surprising, but what I learned next surprised me more.

"Here in Mound Bayou," said Mayor Ben Green, Harvard graduate, magistrate and mayor, "we try to find out what is behind any piece of wrong-doing. We have discovered that certain families exploit their children in the cotton-picking season. If a father takes all his boy's earnings away from him, one of two things is likely to happen. Either that boy will begin to steal to get spending money. Or he will run away from home. We're stopping that."

Then Green told me of his handling of grown-ups who had gotten into trouble. How with a kindly talk he had straightened out the quarrel between Sammy and Hoke over a boundary line. How Jack had been cured of speeding and the marital troubles of Roxie and Luke fixed up.

"We have about one thousand people in the village, eight thousand in the community as a whole, and only two part time peace officers," said Green. "John Thomas, the hot-dog man, is town marshal, and John Young, grocer, is deputy sheriff. They hardly ever have anything to do. We haven't had a major crime in thirteen years."

No jail and no major crime in thirteen years in a community of eight thousand people is news anywhere. But when this fact concerns an all-Negro town, you prick up your ears. I remembered the charges commonly made against the Negro—his childishness, his emotionalism, his propensity for settling disputes with the razor, his difficulty in distinguishing his property and yours.

I said: "Is the law observance of Mound Bayou due to the happy accident of an unusual magistrate?"

"No," said Green. "For one thing, I am not unusual. I'm merely using common sense. But a more important fact is that there is something else operating here. The Negro is living in complete self-respect. In other words, he lives a normal life. Normal impulses have play."

To understand the true significance of these words of Ben Green, let us glance at the background of the town.

Mound Bayou was founded fifty years ago by a remarkable Negro Isaiah T. Montgomery, who had been a body servant to Jefferson Davis, president of the Confederacy. Jefferson Davis had an acute understanding of the Negro. Believing that the wisest future for the freedman was on the land, he and his brother after the Civil War sold the Davis plantation on the lower Mississippi to their former slaves.

1-8-38

For many years these Negroes, led by Montgomery, managed the estate so successfully that it became the third largest cotton producer in the South. Then the falling price of cotton and legal troubles with the Davis heirs, who claimed title to the land, forced the Negroes out. Montgomery went into business in Vicksburg.

In the late '80's, the Yazoo and Mississippi Railroads, building a line from Memphis to Vicksburg, obtained large grants of land from the state of Mississippi. Much of this land was lush alluvial swamp, heavily forested, uninhabited. Naturally the railroad wanted to get people on the land. Hearing of Isaiah Montgomery's success at the Davis plantation, the railroad proposed to the ex-slave that he start a Negro colony. Montgomery looked the land over and picked 840 acres in Bolivar County, half-way between Memphis and Vicksburg.

Enlisting the help of his young cousin, Ben Green—father of the present mayor and magistrate—Montgomery gathered together a band of his people, sold them tracts at $8 an acre, $1 down and a $1 a year. Out of the dense forest these black folk hewed their homes.

More and more Negroes came, seeking to better themselves. More and more land was bought. Today the community covers 30,000 acres, farmed to cotton and corn. A larger proportion of these people own their own land and there are fewer mortgages than in the average community of mixed whites and Negroes in the South.

The village looks like many a small southern town, a street of stores, several of them very modern and good looking, a couple of garages and auto agencies, a sawmill, a gristmill, two cotton gins, one owned by outsiders, one a co-op owned by the Negro planters. In the center of the town stands a $115,000 consolidated school with 800 pupils and [illegible] teachers and a Tuskegee principal.

These are the outward facts. Behind them is the truth, the spirit, which Ben Green stated to me, the truth whose validity I discovered as I talked with the people of Mound Bayou. Here the Negro lives in self-respect. This is what makes Mound Bayou significant beyond itself. Ben Green, the understanding magistrate and mayor, is a result rather than a cause. Here the Negro is living a normal, human life. The most fundamental of human impulses—helpfulness, co-operation, good will, desire to live at peace with one's neighbors—here find normal expression.

"For ten years," he said. "I lived in a place where white people and Negroes were mixed. . . .

"Then I heard that Mound Bayou was a place where a Negro could be just as good as my neighbors, and I sold out and came. One of the big things here in Mound Bayou is I have a fine school for my children. In the mixed community, the Negro school ain't never as good as the white folks' school."

In justice to the white people of the South, I must say at once that it is only a certain class of southern white who is jealous and resentful of the Negro who attains any degree of prosperity. The better class of white people in the South welcomes prosperity for the black man, especially if he wins it on the land.

One morning I sat as a visitor in the monthly meeting of the board of directors of the Mound Bayou Foundation. At one side of the long table sat cultured middle-aged Mary Booze, daughter of Isaiah Montgomery, and one of the best known Negro women today in the United States. Officially she is Republican national committeewoman from Missisippi. Another at the table was that handsome mulatto, Eugene Booze, her husband, business man and planter.

Another was tall powerful L. E. Edwards, proprietor of the Mound Bayou Five and Ten and traveling representative of the Afro American Sons and Daughters, a fraternal order which sells medical protection and counts 20,000 members in Mississippi. Others were small wizened Dudley Harvey, aged eighty, successful cotton raiser; C. D. Thurmond, postmaster; and bespectacled Mrs. Priscilla McCarty, aged seventy, who owns and operates 540 acres of productive land. A man in overalls came in, hat in hand, tall, thin, sad-eyed.

The Mound Bayou Foundation, I learned, was started four years ago by some of the leading citizens of the community with the purpose of keeping alive the pioneer spirit of the founders. This purpose can best be attained, Mr. Booze and his friends believe, by promoting the civic interests of Mound Bayou. The foundation has 500 members, some of whom have paid $25 for a life membership. It has received generous donations from both whites and Negroes. In these difficult years it has helped dozens of Mound Bayou farmers and merchants to save their plantations and business places. Sometimes it makes outright gifts of money to people in trouble, sometimes it loans money, sometime assists in refinancing. Booze told me that it had helped refinance at least $100,000 worth of property for Mound Bayou citizens. It has assisted several deserving boys and girls through college.

The fame of the Booze family has spread far both among Negroes and whites. One day an old one-armed Confederate veteran, tramping the roads, stopped at the door of the Booze residence, a modern two-story brick house on the main street.

"I heard you-all's father was slave to my old commander-in-chief," he said to Mrs. Booze. "So I thought maybe you'd help a traveler on his way." He got help.

Would such an organization as the Mound Bayou Foundation be possible where the Negro was ridden by fear, oppressed by economic and social discrimination?

Here is another evidence that the black man in Mound Bayou is free to act on normal impulses.

What does all this mean? Does it mean that the all-Negro community is the solution of the Negro-and-white ploblem in America? Am I, a stranger from the North, carried away by my enthusiasm for what I have seen?

I have asked many students of the Negro, men who know far more of him than I do, whether the all-black community is the solution, and I have received a variety of answers.

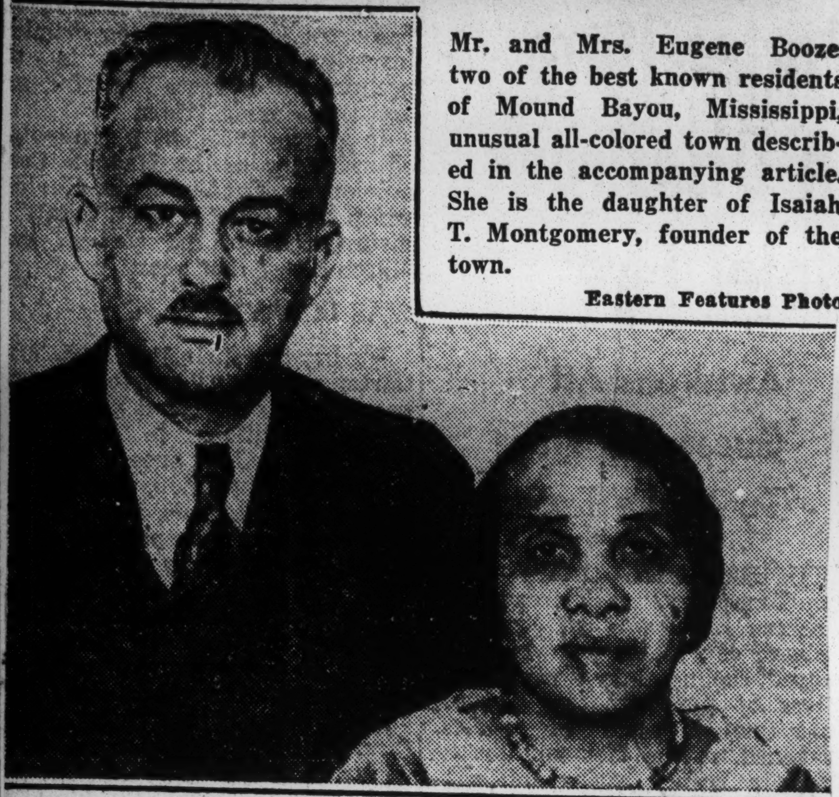
For instance Frederick D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee, while praising Mound Bayou, while stating truly that the most desirable community for the Negro is that which offers "normal participation in all civic relationships," yet expresses doubts whether all-black communities on a large scale are feasible or desirable.

Dr. Thomas E. Jones, president of Fisk University, tells me that in his opinion the mixed community which left racial discrimination out would be more desirable than the all-Negro town.

True enough, but where today will you find it? Where today save in the all-black community can the Negro have normal participation in all civic relationships? Not in Harlem or on Beale Street. Memphis!

Mound Bayou is not Utopia. It may not be the solution of our most plaguing race problem. But it stands as an inspiration. It shows what man can do when freed of fear.

Among Town's Noted Residents



Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Booze, two of the best known residents of Mound Bayou, Mississippi, unusual all-colored town described in the accompanying article. She is the daughter of Isaiah T. Montgomery, founder of the town.

Eastern Features Photo

A Footnote On Isolation By Prominent Sociologist

The all-Negro community is an interesting cultural enclave in he American society but, in my judgment, it has very limited posibilities for bringing about permanent racial adjustment. In such Negro communities as Mound Bayou, Miss.; Boley, Okla.; and St. Helena Island, it has been observed that the homogenety of the original group, the intimacy of personal relations, and the consciousness of a common enterprise may help to reduce the amount of crime. These factors may, indeed, preserve members of the group from the disturbing shocks of race prejudice, and pemit them to participate fully in the life of the segregated community. But, like other types of culturally isolated communities, the group disadvantages often outweigh the shadowy advantages of individual escape.

A Negro community is no more exempt from institutionalized race prejudice than is an individual Negro. It is exceptionally difficult, is not impossible, for any American community to survive except through successful integration in the American economic system, and within the cultural framework of the larger society. A Negro community can have no different cultural base, as is very frequently assumed, and isolation for them simply means being cut off from the main current of cultural development in America. A ghetto offers the same personal advantages for members of the group, and has the same profound limitations of development. It is neither race nor degeneracy, for example, that accounts for the persistent backwardness of many white groups in the American society, notably in the South, but more demonstrably their cultural isolation and their poverty.

Fifty years ago there were a hundred or more all-Negro communities. Only a few have survived. Few Utopias have survived even when they had no racial factors to combat.

Of the two evils it seems better for Negroes in America to direct their energies toward normal participation in the life of Ameican communities, even though this involves more frequent personal disappointment and much disorganization during the gradual process of acculturation. The longer time adjustment that seems wisest to me is that of making race difference in physical traits count for less, as the culture of the whole Negro population is expanded and enriched, in terms of the only patterns they know.—CHARLES S. JOHNSON, Fisk University.

Negro Town Lived Within Its Income, Report Shows

Age

3-26-38

New York

MOUND BAYOU, Miss.—(C)—Isaac Peterson, clerk of this all-Negro town, has filed the town's annual statement showing $2,045.25 was collected last year, and there was a treasury balance of $29.74 on December 31. Receipts were: Water rent $480.25; privileges taxes, $306.75; personal taxes $83.72; ad valorem taxes, $614.53; street taxes, $118; fines $124; sales of material $13.50; notes $272.50; contributions $32; expense $11; printing and publications $206.50; payments on fire truck $125; labor and service total $2,045.25.

Disbursements were: election $18.45; supplies $8.08; street lights, $443.97; installation of meter in depot, $5; interest on bonds, $272.50; salaries and commissions, $469.01; refunding bonds, $200; refunds, $90; total, $2,015.51. Balance in treasury December 31, 1937, $29.74.

Negroes Observe 51st Anniversary

Commercial Appeal

MOUND BAYOU, Miss., July 11.—This negro community will observe the fifty-first anniversary of its founding tomorrow.

Mound Bayou was first settled July 12, 1887, by Isaiah T. Montgomery.

7-12-38

Through the assistance of the Bolivar County Board of Supervisors, and voluntary contributions of residents, the mayor and Board of Aldermen have decorated the city to welcome Rev. Glen T. Settle, director of the "Wings Over Jordan" program over the Columbia Broadcasting System each Sunday morning.

Memphis, Tenn.

Rev. Settle will be the principal speaker, with that part of the program being broadcast over Radio Station WREC of Memphis at 4 o'clock tomorrow afternoon.

Benjamin T. Montgomery, Washington lawyer, and a cousin of Isaiah T. Montgomery, will be the principal speaker tomorrow night. Local talent will furnish music.

Folder C —

Daily News

10-14-38

10-14-38

All-Negro Town of Mound Bayou Founded On Faith of Former Slaves in Own People

BY ROBERT J. CASEY.

Special Dispatch from a Staff Correspondent.

Mound Bayou, Miss., Oct. 14.—Because Jefferson Davis, president of the Confederacy, and his brother Joseph were interested in the education of their slaves and because harried railroad promoters had the odd idea that white people never could live in what is now the fertile cotton belt of the delta, Mound Bayou is today the largest all-Negro town in the United States. Because a pair of former slaves had faith in their people, and understanding, what was to have been a camp of swamp-workers has become the most interesting social project undertaken by the Negro race in the United States.

There are nearly a thousand Negroes on the census books of this tranquil, jailless town today, some 8,000 in the 30,000 acres of "the Mound Bayou area," the district which the town serves. It was in the midst of a genuine boom when the depression came and already had become the focal point of what seemed to be the Negro equivalent of the Palestine movement.

It was the sort of heaven that Negro sharecroppers hoped to see when they died. It was the port of plenty to countless hungry, jobless Negroes in Harlem and in Chicago and in St. Louis. And some day it may be that again when the cotton market is better and the boll weevil neglects to take his expensive percentage of the crop. For the land under Negro ownership that stretches three miles to the north, two miles to the south, five miles to the east and six miles to the west of the town is part of the most productive cotton acreage in the world.

Room for Many More.

Thousands more people could be supported without strain in this region—would be supported were it not for lack of money to establish them. In the meantime the shrewd little group that looks after Mound Bayou's affairs figures what can be done with available help from the government, what will be done on that day when business returns to normal and cash is freer. They foresee the expansion of their little town into a Negro city with unlimited opportunities for decent living and cultural development. And one must admit that their vision is considerably less fantastic than that of Isaiah T. Montgomery and Benjamin T. Green, who believed that a little colony of ex-slaves could be self-governing and self-supporting.

Montgomery and Green were first cousins born in Natchez and raised on the Davis plantation at Davis Bend, Warren County, Mississippi. They were as unlike as two men of any race could be, Green the practical, Montgomery the visionary, but they had the common advantage of a good education through a schoolmaster provided by the Davis family for their slaves. And they complemented one another. What Montgomery planned, Green executed—which is how Mound Bayou came into being.

Town Founded in '80s.

The town was founded in the '80s when the Yazoo & Mississippi Valley Railroad was attempting to exploit some of the apparently useless land along its right of way. There was a feeling among the railroad officials that only Negroes would be able to live in the swampy stretches of the delta, and in looking about for a man to lead the settlement of the district, they came upon Montgomery. For 18 years since the Civil War he had been directing former slaves in the management of the old Davis plantation, which then ranked as the third largest cotton producer in the South.

Green, who was a successful merchant in Newton, Miss., joined his cousin on the project. Together they contracted to buy a total of 1,540 acres of wilderness from the railroad and moved 20 families north.

There was at first no plan for the founding of an incorporated town. The camp in the swampland was as truly a pioneer settlement as any that had come to the Mississippi Valley in the years before the war—too small to require much government—too poor to attract much attention from white politicians. There were bitter and lean years before the bears, panthers and wolves were killed off and the jungles of cane, cypress and water oaks cleared and the land made ready for tillage.

Incorporated as City.

Then slowly the colony began to expand. There were some good cotton markets and indications of continuing prosperity. What had been a central group of farm cabins began to look like a town. Mound Bayou was incorporated as a municipality governed by a mayor and a board of six aldermen.

The present era of the community began in 1920 when wartime cotton prices made possible an extensive program of paving and sidewalk laying and street lighting. Like all other towns in the region, Mound Bayou suffered from the postwar market collapse and was still in straitened circumstances when the depression arrived. The influx of new settlers whose homes were spreading out from the original town site into new subdivisions was halted.

Today in outward appearances Mound Bayou is like dozens of other towns one passes through on the highway between Memphis and New Orleans. Its buildings are not pretentious. Some of them are old. Not for 10 years have there been any funds available for dressing up the streets. As everywhere in the United States, there are plenty of families on public relief and scores of men of the common laborer type unemployed.

But the people, aside from their difference in color, are unlike those in a similar plight in other communities. In the first place they are for the most part the sons and daughters of pioneers with the pioneer traditions of hardship and what is to be done about it. The vagaries of cotton markets and the privations of bad years are nothing new to them, so they go about their work in the philosophical belief that all bad times get better.

In the meantime they have 700 children in one of the finest community schools in Mississippi. They have three cotton gins and a $100,000 cotton oil plant. They have drug stores with pastel walls and chrome furnishings and ultra-modern grocery markets and a picture theater, and beauty shops and women's clubs and civic societies and glee clubs and dramatic associations. And nothing today's depression can offer seems important when so many folks can remember the bears and the panthers and the wolves and the wet, hungry winters in the swamplands.

Towns and Settlements - 1938

Mississippi.

People Hold Up Their Heads in Mound Bayou

(Extracts from a speech by Mayor Benjamin A. Green of Mound Bayou, Miss., before the AFRO Employees' Club, October 8.)

Mound Bayou is a small rural community. Sometimes the picture has been over-painted, yet in the final analysis the background is there.

Afro American 10-15-38

The people there have self-respect. They hold their heads up and feel that they are as good as anybody. We have an independent people here. We don't have the restraint that colored people in the surrounding sections have.

Baltimore Md.

Never in Bondage

There has never been bondage in Mound Bayou and there never will be.

We have always been free. We have a little different attitude towards life. We walk a little different and you can't blame us. As we come North we see colored people walking a little different.

We pattern after you and we walk as you walk. If you go to Mound Bayou just do as you would do in Baltimore.

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All-Negro Town Will Celebrate Founding July 12

(Special to The Times-Picayune)

Mound Bayou, Miss., May 27.—Mound Bayou, all-negro town in the Mississippi Delta, is making preparations for the observance of Founders' Day on July 12, at which time the memory of those instrumental in the establishment of a town for the negro race will be honored.

Behind Mound Bayou, a town of 1000 population in a rich farming area of 30,000 acres, is an interesting history. The town was founded in 1887 by Isaiah T. Montgomery, a former slave and body servant of Jefferson Davis, president of the Southern Confederacy, and Montgomery's cousin, Benjamin T. Green.

5-29-39

The idea of an all-negro settlement had its inception before the War Between the States on Brierfield plantation of Jefferson Davis where Montgomery, an intelligent and educated negro, had often discussed the plan with Mr. Davis as a solution of the then irritating problem of slavery.

The first actual settlement was made in 1865 on the Brierfield plantation at Davis' bend, 20 miles south of Vicksburg, on the Mississippi river. After operating successfully for 20 years the colony abandoned the location because of recurrent floods. The majority of the people became the first settlers of Mound Bayou.

Major George W. McGinnis, then in charge of the land department of the L. N. O. and T. railroad, now the Yazoo and Mississippi Valley railroad, invited Montgomery and his followers to settle on the railroad lines at Mound Bayou in 1887. The first settlers arrived in July, 1887.

The colony in 1898 became the village of Mound Bayou, numbering 183 persons, and was incorporated by the state of Mississippi. In 1912 the village was given the status of a town. Since that time it has operated under the aldermanic form of government, having elective offices of mayor, town marshal and board of five aldermen, all negroes.

New Orleans, La., Times-Picayune
May 28, 1939

All-Negro Town Will Celebrate Founding July 12

(Special to The Times-Picayune)

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The first actual settlement was made in 1865 on the Brierfield plantation at Davis' bend, 20 miles south of Vicksburg, on the Mississippi river. After operating successfully for 20 years the colony abandoned the location because of recurrent floods. The majority of the people became the first settlers of Mound Bayou.

Major George W. McGinnis, then in charge of the land department of the L. N. O. and T. railroad, now the Yazoo and Mississippi Valley railroad, invited Montgomery and his followers to settle on the railroad lines at Mound Bayou in 1887. The first settlers arrived in July, 1887.

The colony in 1898 became the village of Mound Bayou, numbering 183 persons, and was incorporated by the state of Mississippi. In 1912 the village was given the status of a town. Since that time it has operated under the aldermanic form of government, having elective offices of mayor, town marshal and board of five aldermen, all negroes.

Alexandria, Va. Gazette
June 22, 1939

NEGRO COLONY WILL OBSERVE FOUNDING DAY

MOUND BAYOU, Miss. (U.P.)—Mound Bayou will leap and sing and strum banjoes July 12 in celebration of the day in 1887 when two former slaves conceived of and began this all-Negro settlement on the banks of the Mississippi.

Isaiah T. Montgomery, a former slave and body servant of Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederacy, and his cousin, Benjamin T. Green, had ideas of a sanctuary for members of their race before the Civil War began. They talked it over with "Marse Jefferson." He thought it would be a good plan.

The first settlement, later abandoned because the Mississippi kept washing their efforts away every spring, was on the Brierfield plantation, 20 miles south of Vicksburg. That was in 1865.

For 20 years the inhabitants of the unnamed town battled the Mississippi floods, then gave up. In 1887 Major George F. McGinnis, head of the land department of a railroad which now is the Yazzoo & Mississippi Valley line, invited Montgomery and his settlers to live on railroad land near Mound Bayou. They moved in and called their new home Mound Bayou.

The colony became official in 1898 when the state of Mississippi allowed it to be incorporated. Its census then read: 183 persons. Now Mound Bayou has 1,000 citizens.

Settlements

NEGROES TO PAY PROBE EXPENSE

Negro

MOUND BAYOU, Miss. — (AP) — Mayor B. A. Green, Negro, said citizens of this all-Negro town were taking up a collection to pay expenses of an investigation of the shooting and killing Sunday night of Stella Montgomery, 45.

10-7-39

The woman was shot when officers sought to arrest her for violating a court order prohibiting her from visiting the house of her brother-in-law, E. P. Booze, Negro Republican national committeeman of Mississippi.

Birmingham Ala

The officers and Booze said the woman sought to attack the officers with a butcher knife.

KILLING ROUSES ALL-NEGRO TOWN

Shooting Of Foremost Resident Disturbs Model Community

Age-Herald

MOUND BAYOU, Miss., Nov. 7—(AP)—The half century old calm of this all Negro community, nationally known as an example of Negro thrift and self-government, was deeply stirred Tuesday by the ambush slaying of the town's leading citizen, Eugene P. Booze, son-in-law of Isaiah T. Montgomery, former body servant to President Jefferson Davis, of the Confederacy, and the town's founder.

11-8-39

White officers from Cleveland and Clarksdale descended upon the town Tuesday to investigate the killing, carried out Monday night in the approved gangster style. Booze's car was riddled by 26 bullet holes including two charges of buckshot.

It was one of the few major crimes in the 52-year-old history of the town, so law abiding that it got along without a full-time peace officer or courts, and a few years ago proudly tore down its jail as unnecessary.

Birmingham

Booze, whose wife is Republican national committeewoman from Mississippi, and one of the best known Negro women in the United States, and who himself was a member of the Republican State Central Committee, lived long enough in a Greenville, Miss., hospital allegedly to ascribe the slaying to "political reasons," which reference was not explained. He died early Tuesday, the body being returned here for burial.

Ala

The killing was the second violent death here in six weeks, and one of the few in 40 years since an "outsider" murdered Benjamin T. Green, father of the present mayor, and a cousin of founder Montgomery.

Six weeks ago Estelle Booze, daughter of Montgomery, and sister-in-law to Booze was killed by two Cleveland deputy sheriffs when she reportedly resisted arrest with butcher knives in Booze's house, after he called officers to eject her. She had been banned from the house by a court order and had gone to St. Louis, Mo., but returned to reenter Booze's property.

Citizens under leadership of Mayor Green later began collecting a fund to investigate the death.

Both pistol bullets and buckshot were taken from Booze's body, his automobile being penetrated from side and rear. His chauffeur was slightly hurt.

Montgomery, slave in the Davis household and freed by the war, was chosen by Joseph Davis, elder brother of the president of the Confederacy, to found a plantation and all Negro community to unite liberated slaves. He established this for 13 years on the old Davis plantation.

Later through aid of the Yazoo & Mississippi Railway Mound Bayou was chosen in 1887, and 30,000 acres of impenetrable brush, cane and timber was set aside for the experiment. Of many such projects attempted, this was the most successful.

Mound Bayou has grown to 1,000 population, with 8,000 Negroes living on farms adjacent. Not a white person lives in the town or nearby territory. The Negroes have been self-governing, and their boast is they have lived with complete self-respect, and well-being.

Until his death in 1924 at the age of 80 Montgomery ruled the community with an even and fair hand, virtually stamping out all crime through educational methods, which were widely acclaimed.

Mound Bayou

Mayor of Mound Bayou Aids in Probe of Montgomery Shooting

Cleveland, Ohio, Herald 10-27-39

MAYOR B. A. GREEN

MOUND BAYOU, Miss.— Las Sunday as more than 5,000 mourners crowded Bethel A.M.E church here to pay their last tribute at the bier of Estelle Montgomery, a request was sent from St. Louis, Mo., to Attorney General Grank Murphy of the U.S department of justice, for an investigation into the fatal shooting of Miss Montgomery on October 1, at the Mound Bayou home of her brother-in-law, Eugene P. Booze.

The letter to the attorney general was sent by G. R. Fox of St. Louis, Miss Montgomery's secretary and invested by her with power of attorney. Here on a visit from her home in St. Louis, Miss Montgomery was reportedly shot nine times by two white deputy sheriffs, in the presence of Booze.

According to reports of the tragedy, the sheriffs went to the Booze home to force Miss Montgomery to leave, and after they broke down the barricaded door she menaced them with a butcher knife they claim to have fired in self defense.

Miss Booze was the daughter of Isaiah Montgomery, one of the founders of this all-Negro town and a sister of Mrs. M. C. Booze G.O.P. national committeewoman for Mississippi.

It was learned this week that as a result of the request of a number of citizens, headed by Mound Bayou Mayor B. A. Green, the body, will be held here for 15 days, pending the investigation, after which time it will be shipped to St. Louis for burial. Mayor Green was reported as contending that claim that Miss Montgomery attacked the deputies with a butcher knife is supported by insufficient evidence. It was also stated that the victim was shot in the back.

MISSISSIPPI

Booze Is Dead

Time

11-20-39

Bitter was the feud in the all-Negro town of Mound Bayou, Miss., between Eugene P. Booze, Republican boss, and his sister-in-law Estelle Montgomery. Cause: both claimed ownership of the house in which Booze and his family lived. Eugene Booze apparently won the argument last month: in an altercation over a court order forbidding her to enter the house, Estelle attacked Booze and two white State policemen with a butcher knife, was shot dead.

To Eugene Booze, Mound Bayou's richest citizen, owner of thousands of acres of cotton and timber land, the end of all arguments came last week. After his sister-in-law's shooting, he was looked on askance by many a citizen of Mound Bayou. One night last week somebody shot him from ambush. John Thomas, Mound Bayou's marshal, declared the shooting was done by persons unknown. All he knew was that Old Man Booze was dead.

Mississippi Hog Ear Loses Its Jewel

Journal & Guide

11-18-39

"THERE hasn't been a prisoner in the city jail for more than two years and we haven't had a murder in more than four years. Our people go to church instead of jail."

The above is a boast made some years ago of his city, Mound Bayou, Miss., by Mayor B. A. Green, Harvard graduate. Norfolk, Va.

But recently something tragic has happened in the little all-colored town. Miss Estella Montgomery, sister of Mrs. E. P. Booze, Republican national committeewoman, was shot to death in the Booze home under peculiar circumstances. On November 6, Eugene P. Booze, brother-in-law of Miss Montgomery and State Republican committeeman, was assassinated.

Talk about a jewel in a hog's ear—well, there was a time when we would point to Mound Bayou. We felt that there was something wrong in the larger communities where men went about turning burglars and slaying their fellow citizens.

We wondered how Mound Bayou got away with such exemplary conduct while surrounded with conditions of mobocracy and violence.

Now, however, it appears that civilization and its attending evils have moved into the little all-colored town. Thus security of life and property in this once haven regrettably becomes an old-time virtue as in the communities at large.

"FOR MOUND BAYOU'S GOOD'

Nashville Globe

(Memphis World)

11-17-39

The following editorial appeared in the Commercial Appeal on Wednesday morning, Nov. 8, following the killing of Eugene P. Booze at Mound Bayou, Miss.:

"Almost from the time of its founding, Mound Bayou, all-Negro community of Mississippi, has been free of crimes of violence and has been a model of what a community can be from a standpoint of law observance and neighborliness. A few weeks ago a daughter of the town's founder was shot todeath by officers in the home of her brother-in-law, a person of considerable political influence in the community, who had obtained a warrant for her arrest. Nashville, Tenn.

"Monday night this same political leader was shot to death from ambush on the main street of the town. It may develop that the latest slaying was an outgrowth of the first and of the intense feeling said to exist in the community. In any event, it is important that Mississippi authorities make every effort to bring the slayers to justice and to reveal the facts of both slayings. Under no circumstances should the two incidents be dismissed as merely difficulties between Negroes in which the state has no interest.

"Strict and impartial law enforcement has a major stake in what has occurred at Mound Bayou that Mississippi's judicial processes exhaustively examine and act in the present situation, not only that justice be done but that present feeling be prevented from developing to the point where it becomes a feud and exacts feudal price."

171

Miss. Militia Invades Mound Bayou In State-Wide Clean-Up Of Crime

By JAMES H. PURDY JR.

MOUND BAYOU, Miss., Dec. 15—Jitterbug's hall and gambling dens will not be able to operate here because of a raid that was staged here by four squadrons of the Mississippi National Guard under the command of Maj. T. B. Birdsong Jr. (white) The militia claims they raided 16 establishments and seized 30 gallons of whiskey and destroyed gambling equipment in over a dozen places.

The guardsman swooped down on this all-Race town at the request of District Attorney Greek P. Rice (white) and on the instruction of Governor White.

It will be remembered that it was Governor White who was responsible for the raid on the Gold Coast at Jackson and the state line operators just outside of Memphis a few months ago. These places were operated by whites, while those in Mound Bayou were owned and operated by Race members.

Major Birdsong stated that the raid, conducted last Thursday night, had no connection with the slaying of Eugene P. Booze, former planter and attorney of this city. Sheriff Joe L. Smith of Bolivar County participated in the raids at Mound Bayou.

It was in Clarksdale that Fred Miller of Mound Bayou was detained for questioning in connection with the slaying of E. P. Booze; Miller was later released on his own recognition. Many citizens that reside here believe that whites are seeking to take over the town. The late E. P. Booze, they say, would condone whatever action the whites would take against Race citizens.

Race citizens are beginning to feel a bit insecure and in many instances turmoil exists but most citizens have said they were in Mound Bayou to stay, and would fight for their all-Race town to the finish.

District Attorney Greek P. Rice, in discussing the 52-year-old town said, "Until two months ago the town had a national reputation as a model community, but now it is an intolerable den of vice."

This statement is resented by many citizens. They feel that certain outside interests, seeking to get control of the city, are purposely attempting to blackmail the community.

News

10-8-39

Birmingham Ala.

~~Among recent publications of the~~ Mississippi Advertising Commission is an illustrated pamphlet written "in recognition and appreciation of the important role played by the Negro race in Mississippi's development."

The pamphlet sets forth the results in the economic and cultural life of the state of the application of the philosophy of Isaiah T. Montgomery, once a slave of Confederate President Jefferson Davis, Negro delegate to the Mississippi Constitutional Convention in 1890 and founder of Mound Bayou, the first all-Negro town in the South. In Mound Bayou a $100,000 school has replaced the community jail and throughout the state well organized interracial councils work successfully for better understanding between the races.

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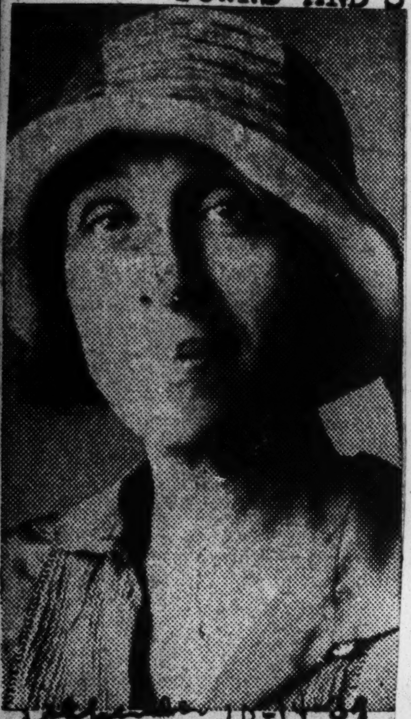

Defender 10-14-39

ESTELLA MONTGOMERY

SHOT 9 TIMES BY 2 DEPUTIES SUNDAY NIGHT

Family Feud Believed To Be Responsible For Tragedy

Defender

10-7-39

Chicago Def

MOUND BAYOU, Miss., Oct. 6—Miss Estella Montgomery, 40, daughter of Isiah T. Montgomery, founder of this all-Race settlement, was riddled with nine bullets here Sunday night by two of the sheriff's deputies when she refused to come out of a house owned by the daughter of E. P. Booze, National Republican committeeman.

According to a statement from local authoritative sources, Booze ordered Miss Montgomery out of the home Sunday. Incidentally, it formerly belonged to her father. When she insisted on remaining he went to the county seat and swore out a warrant for her arrest, disregarding the local authorities altogether.

About 11:30 p.m., Sunday the deputies arrived on the scene and ordered Miss Montgomery out, telling her that she was under arrest. Some express the feeling that she did not come out because she was afraid, knowing the reputation of one of the officers for brutality.

Shot Nine Times

When upon a second command she refused to come out they entered the home, accompanied by Booze. What happened inside, there is no Race witness to tell, but the woman was killed, shot nine times.

Although an investigation is being made, a large part of the community is up in arms over what they consider a cold-blooded and unwarranted murder.

Some citizens of the town say that the whole thing could have been settled peacefully had the matter been turned over to the local judge and officials, all of whom are members of the Race.

Grew Out of Feud

It is believed that the tragic incident grew out of a feud which has existed between the Montgomery and Booze families for several years.

This city is one of the oldest and largest all-Race towns in the country and until recently was the moving spirit in the state.

The body is being held until the investigation is completed.

MOUND BAYOU ASKS BOOZE TO LEAVE TOWN

✓✓ 10-29-39

Chicago Bee

MOUND BAYOU, Oct. 26—Outraged over the wanton slaying of Miss Estella Montgomery, daughter of this all-Negro community's founder, Isaiah Montgomery, on Oct. 2, more than 500 residents in a mass meeting Thursday evening denounced E. P. Booze at whose instigation white officers from another county entered the house in which the woman was also an ex-convict.

The entire assemblage was outspoken in placing the blame for the fatal shooting on Booze, some of the citizens demanding that he be driven out of town. Booze was the brother-in-law of Miss Montgomery, marrying her sister, Mrs. Mary Booze, National Republican Committeewoman.

Charge Unfair Tactics

Many stated that Booze got possession of the property from which he was attempting to evict the dead woman when she was slain, by unfair methods.

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500 CITIZENS JOIN PROTEST MASS MEETING

Defender

Say Slaying Of Founder's Daughter Dirtiest Crime Ever Committed

10-28-39

MOUND BAYOU, Miss., Oct. 27—Declaring that the destiny of this all-Race town is at stake when white officers from the county can come in and shoot down its citizens, more than 500 residents denounced E. P. Booze in a mass meeting here Thursday evening.

The mass meeting was called in protest of the brutal shooting of Miss Estella Montgomery, daughter of the founder of the town, Isaiah T. Montgomery. Miss Montgomery was shot nine times by county deputies in an alleged arrest attempt on October 1. Booze who ordered the arrest, is blamed for the tragedy. Some of the citizens demanded that he be driven out of the town. They state Booze, who was the brother-in-law of Miss Montgomery, having married her sister, Mrs. Mary Booze, National Republican Committeewoman, got possession of the property, from which he was attempting to evict the dead woman, by unfair methods.

The Mayor Speaks

Mayor B. A. Green, who was chairman at the meeting, denounced the affair in no uncertain terms. "It doesn't matter," said Mayor Green, Mound Bayou's first-born son, "who was killed, it's the principle of the thing. It makes no difference whether they shot in self defense or not, the fact is, those officers had no business here." At this point, the house was wild with applause voicing their protest to the tragical invasion of the officers. Lawyer Green continued, "Do you people who have sons and daughters, want them to look up to a man of that type, who will disregard our law and order and bring officers of other towns into our town, do you want them to be like him? If you do, God help you. I have no son or daughter of my own, but I am interested in your sons and daughters having peace and security. I am not afraid to be put on the spot in this matter, I don't care who hears me say it, I am not whispering it behind closed doors. You people must stop talking behind the house, but talk up and out for your rights. It may take another 52 years to get back where we were, but we must determine that we wont let the devil stop us from going back."

The audience loudly applauded its fiery mayor for his firm stand to recover the lost ground.

Many Weep

Mrs. Eva P. Canton, sister of the slain woman, arose and a pall of gloom fell over the audience, as they must have recalled memories of Father Montgomery and his girls, as he made provisions for them that they might enjoy freedom and happiness of his efforts together with thousands of black men and women, now to have one of his daughters slain in their midst because she wanted to sleep in the house her father built for them. Some of the audience shed tears, some wept bitterly, as through her tear-broken voice, Mrs. Canton tried bravely to express herself, she told of many expressions of sorrow coming from white friends of her lamented father and Mound Bayou, and how they regretted the tragedy.

Defends Booze

Edward Jones, part time employee of E. P. Booze, gamely took the floor and attempted to speak in defense of his employer's actions regarding the tragedy, but Eddie was shunted into almost complete oblivion when Fred Miller followed him to the floor and in a very frank way, degraded Booze for the manner in which he had Estella Montgomery evicted from her father's house.

Miller said, "I believe the thing that happened on October 1, was one of the dirtiest things that ever happened in the United States. I've known the 'gentleman,' Eugene P. Booze for quite a time and I have never known any good of him. He doesn't fit in our community life, he doesn't belong here."

Most of the speakers on the occasion were the citizens of long standing who referred to the tragedy as the worse they had heard of in the history of their lives. They all referred to the fact that they had cast their lots in Mound Bayou because they wanted to be among members of the Race in a town ruled by their own race.

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CRIME BLOTS MOUND BAYOU

Eugene P. Booze, and his wife, Mrs. Mary C. Booze, on the steps of their home in Mound Bayou, Miss., which is just a short distance from the scene of the tragedy which claimed the life of Mrs. Booze's sister, Miss Estella Montgomery, shown at right. Booze led two officers to dispossess Miss Montgomery from the old homestead, which resulted in the woman being shot to death. Mrs. Booze is Republican National Committeewoman from Mississippi — Defender photos.

11-4-39

Tells Real Story Behind Mound Bayou's Tragedies

Pittsburgh, Pa. Courier 11-18-39

LOS ANGELES, Nov. 16—The nation is startled! The State of Mississippi is excited! And the city of Mound Bayou is in mourning. Eugene P. Booze is dead—murdered—shot from ambush! Estelle Montgomery is dead—the victim of two white officers of the Law. Dead by violence! And her friends say "she also was murdered."

Mound Bayou, founded 51 years ago by Isaiah T. Montgomery in the fertile delta of the state of Mississippi, on a gift of land from Colis P. Huntington, the railroad magnate, where I. T. Montgomery and a small group of associates, created this little city in the midst of a rich farming belt, peopled by Negroes, nursed it and watched it grow, blossoming into a thriving business center; its affairs administered by men of color from mayor down to city marshall.

A place where Negroes could bring their products mainly cotton and corn, to market and sell them to buyers of their own race; gin their cotton in one of the three big cotton gins; compress the bale for shipment in their own compress; see the cotton seed produce oil for the big markets; cotton seed meal and cotton seed hulls for cattle feed. Industries built, manned and maintained by themselves for their own protection and profit; bank their money in their own banks; trade in their own stores and send their children to one of the two elementary schools and see them graduate in their big high school, ready for their battle of life or college career.

The Mound Bayou of today and what it promises in the future was a dream of Isaiah T. Montgomery, who was born a slave and was the body servant of the late Jefferson Davis, president of the Southern Confederacy. He came from Beaver county. He had learned to read and write, became a leader among his people, became a member of a Constitutional Convention in 1868 and was elected to the State Legislature in Beauvir county.

He was an interesting character, keen and intelligent, endowed with vision and impressed all who came in contact with him. It was this asset that made for him an opportunity to win the good graces of influential southern whites and brought him into the presence of Colis P. Huntington which resulted in the land gift in Bolivar county where the city of Mound Bayou now stands.

Its growth has been prosperous and peaceful until the coming of the boll weevil and the depression; but so strongly had it been built that it had weathered these storms and was on its way again to prosperity. A fraternal organization, the Knights and Daughters of Tabor are constructing a $50,000 hospital there at this time. Honorable Ben Green is now mayor of the city and thereby hangs the tale, for Ben Green and the late Eugene P. Booze were political rivals. Booze was a keen business man and politician and had won the favor of old man I. T. Montgomery and married his daughter, Mary.

Courier 11-18-39

Everyone knows the story of the fight for the control of the Montgomery's estate which brought about the death of one of I. T. Montgomery's daughters, Estelle, by two white officers from a neighboring township. The people blamed Eugene Booze who is now dead by an assassin's hand. And another chapter has been written into the life of the little city of Mound Bayou which has had its joys, its sorrows, its sufferings and now tragedy.

I. T. Montgomery was one of the most highly respected men of his race in the state of Mississippi and for a number of years was Receiver of Public Monies in that state.

Jackson, Miss., News
November 11, 1939

Editorials of Note

FROM THE GREENVILLE DEMOCRAT-TIMES — What has happened in Mound Bayou is not a pleasant thing; but at the same time it is not an indication, as some thoughtless citizens conclude, that the experiment in negro self-government is a failure.

Mound Bayou's division into two small, warring factions is nothing new in local, state or national government. Nor is the death by violence of leaders, political and otherwise, new in the annals of this or any other country. But because Eugene Booze, leader of one group and a principal in an unsavory slaying sometime ago, was murdered from ambush, we've heard a lot of "I told you so's."

Since being in the Delta we've observed Mound Bayou both at a distance and at close hand. There's nothing remarkable about the village, except that it is all-negro with its own mayor, its negro owned and operated stores and its negro-occupied homes ranging as elsewhere from shack to comfortable dwelling. That is in itself remarkable, of course; and more surprising to us is Mound Mayou's record for amity.

The murder of Eugene Booze, is regrettable. But we repeat that the incident does not prove the assertion of those who use it as proof that the negroes' efforts at development within their own race group are bound to fail. We would like to see other Mound Bayous, throughout Mississippi and the South, for they could be the best testing grounds for negro civic growth. We hope that the murderers will be discovered, and that Mound Bayou, granted respite for a time from factional warfare, will again prove itself. It is still not a long space from the days of Jefferson Davis old slave, who founded the town, to today. It is still a very long space from now until the time when the negro finds economic and spiritual adjustment in this country. We who are more fortunate, we white people of the South, should try to help the negro along this intervening space, and not deride when his leadership falters or is discredited.

Memphis, Tenn. Com'rcial Appeal
February 26, 1939

BUSY ALL-NEGRO TOWN BORDERS HIGHWAY 61

Mound Bayou Founded By Jeff Davis' Former Slave

MAYOR, OFFICIALS COLORED

Thriving Little City Of Nearly 1000 Population In Heart Of Fertile 30,000-Acre Farming Area In Mississippi's Delta

Mound Bayou, Miss., advertises itself as "the only all-negro town in the United States," straddles Highway 61 at a point only 90 miles south of Memphis—a thriving little city of nearly 1000 population where every resident is a negro and every public official, including the mayor, is a member of that race.

Behind Mound Bayou, which lies in the heart of a rich farming area of 30,000 acres, is an interesting story.

The town was founded by the late Isaiah T. Montgomery, a former slave and body servant of Jefferson Davis, and by his cousin, Benjamin T. Green, in 1887. The idea of an all-negro settlement had its conception in pre-Civil War days on the Brierfield Plantation of Jefferson Davis where Montgomery, an intelligent and educated negro had often discussed the plan with Mr. Davis as a solution to the then irritating problem of slavery.

The first actual settlement was made in 1865 on the Brierfield Plantation at Davis' Bend, 20 miles south of Vicksburg on the Mississippi River. After operating successfully for nearly 20 years, the colony abandoned that location because of the recurring floods of the river. The majority of the people, relatives and friends of Montgomery and Green, became the first settlers of Mound Bayou.

Slaves Given Liberty

These men and women had been slaves and the fall of the Confederacy in 1865 had given them a taste of freedom. They grasped at the opportunity for social and economic liberty, as well as political and physical freedom, and were eager to develop institutions unencumbered by the handicaps imposed by the dying traditions of the past.

This opportunity came in 1887 when Maj. George W. McGinnis, then in charge of the land department of the L. N. O. & T. Railway (now the Y. & M. V.) invited Montgomery to settle his followers at some location along its lines. Montgomery selected the spot where the town now stands and called it Mound Bayou, because of a large Indian mound located at the convergence of two bayous which drained that territory.

The first settlers of Mound Bayou arrived in July, 1887, and took up their abode in the wilderness. Immediately they set about to clear the forests, drain the swamps, exterminate the panther, bear and wolf, build pathways and log cabins and create a civilization of their own.

The colony prospered and in 1898 the village of Mound Bayou, then numbering 183 souls, was incorporated by the State of Mississippi. In 1912 the village was given the status of a town. Since that time it has operated under the aldermanic form of government, having the elective offices of mayor, town marshal and board of five aldermen.

All Officials Negroes

All these offices have been and are now held by negroes. The present administration is headed by Mayor Benjamin A. Green, an attorney, who was the first male child born in Mound Bayou and whose father, Benjamin T. Green, was one of the town's pioneers. Mayor Green was recently elected for his tenth consecutive term.

Indicative of the progress of the town is the progress of its postoffice. The first postoffice consisted of a wooden soap box, partitioned off with "pigeon holes," which reposed in the home of Isaiah Montgomery. Today, Mound Bayou is a third-class postoffice requiring the services of a postmaster, an assistant and an R. F. D. carrier. In 1935 it issued $28,554 in money orders and sold $2859 worth of stamps.

Points of interest include the home of Isaiah T .Montgomery, a three-story brick erected in 1920 (four years prior to his death) at a cost of $30,000. This home contains a fine collection of pre and postCivil War literature, an interesting collection of hand-made furniture of the ante bellum type and a valuable collection of mementoes relating to the family of Jefferson Davis and the Confederacy. It is open to visitors upon request.

The nearby farming community is inhabited by 8000 negroes and a short tour of these lands reveals agriculture at its best—diversified crops, ample and well-kept livestock, modern methods and tools and a happy and healthy folk enjoying them.

"Welcome," Says Mayor

Says Mayor Green:

"Mound Bayou is a monument, though it be humble to the faith, hope and the intelligent leadership of the negro. It is a monument to his faith in the great commonwealth of Mississippi and his belief in the triumph of justice over racial prejudices.

"Mound Bayou at all times extends a hearty welcome to all races, colors and creeds to come and 'Look us over.'"

TRAGEDY IN FAMILY IS TOLD

Daughter Wanted to Aid Town

By D. [illegible] TAYLOR

10-6-39

Miss Estelle Montgomery, formerly Mrs. James H. Kent, of St. Louis, Lebanon, Ill., and Mound Bayou, Miss., was killed in the home that her father built in Mound Bayou Sunday night by white deputy sheriffs called by her brother-in-law.

Mystery and hints of foul play have been voiced by many residents of Mississippi as well as many persons living here, including members of her family. The only official report circulating from the famous all-Negro Mississippi city is that she was killed in resisting arrest.

When E. P. Booze, brother-in-law of the deceased was contacted by telephone on Monday night by W. H. Mosby, 4042 Cook avenue, he said that Miss Montgomery had refused to leave her father's home when the white officers demanded so and they had in turn, entered the house and killed her.

Left St. Louis Saturday

Miss Montgomery left the city on Saturday night to return to Mound Bayou and establish home in order that she continu the mammoth task begun by her father, the late Isaiah T. Montgomery. Since the death of Mr. Montgomery, Miss Montgomery and Booze have disagreed, for Miss Montgomery claimed that Booze did not continue the work as it should have been. She claimed that Booze, by means of straw sales had sold the large estate and that Negroes would not receive the benefits as planned by the late Mr. Montgomery. Last year Booze had Miss Montgomery declared incompetent because of insanity and he gained guardianship of the vast Montgomery estate, at which time he caused her incarceration. On two occasions he had her arrested and each time she remained in jail on allegedly trumped up charges for more than a month. Her son, Harvey Kent, 4202 West Cook avenue, secured the release of his mother last spring by proving that she her to St. Louis and she remained here and in Lebanon with was totally sane. He returned her daughter, Mrs. Mattie Wellington, until she returned to Mississippi on Saturday.

When Miss Montgomery arrived at the family home, Sunday night, she was ordered out by Booze, who claimed that he had a court writ which barred her from her father's house. When she refused to leave, Booze called white deputies from the county seat to come to his aid. Several of these deputies answered and upon entering the house shot Miss Montgomery giving as their reason, that she resisted arrest. Only the deputies and Booze witnessed the shooting according to information reaching this correspondent. Negro officials of Mound Bayou claim that no call came to them for aid from Booze, and they believe that if they had been called, the situation would have been handled in a different manner.

Foresaw Danger

Early in the spring of last year an Argus representative sat in on a conference with Miss Montgomery, G. R. Fox. her representative, O. H. Whitfield, and representatives of the Missouri evicted sharecroppers. In this conference Miss Montgomery was offering the sharecroppers a haven in Mound Bayou if they in turn would promise to protect her from the wrath and injustices of her brother-in-law.

In this conference Miss Montgomery stated how she had been thrown in jail after being evicted from the family home by her brother-in-law, relating one incident terminated in her falling from the roof of the home while running from the sheriff's deputies. She insisted that Booze was not operating her father's project so that it would remain in the hands of Negroes and always be for their welfare. She further stated that Booze had become very prominent in politics and was using his political influence to have his whims executed and his private coffers filled.

The sharecroppers did not accept the offer of Miss Montgomery. Since then she has continued in her efforts to "carry on my father's work." She left St. Louis about midnight Saturday and was killed within twenty-four hours. Before leaving Saturday Miss Montgomery stated that she was going to return to Mississippi, establish her residence and attempt to carry on the work."

Burial To Be Saturday

Harvey Kent, 4202 West Cook avenue, son of the deacesed, left the city on Tuesday night to claim his mothers's body. Tentative funeral arrangements are that the funeral services will be conducted from the Weatherford Spiritual Temple, 4152 W. Belle place, Saturday afternoon at 1 o'clock.

Besides a son, the deceased is survived by a daughter, Mrs. Mattie Wellington, , Lebanon Ill., three sisters, Mrs. Mary C. Booze, Mrs. Eva P. Canton, Miss Lillie Belle Montgomery, Mound Bayou, Miss., W. H. Mosby, brother-in-law. Houston and Montgomery Mosby, nephews and many other relatives.

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Wife Of Ex-Army Major Has Mound Bayou Home

Defender 10-21-39

NEW YORK, Oct. 20—Mrs. Eugene V. Woods, wife of Dr. Thornton H. "Buster" Woods, an ex-major in the 369th Regiment who resigned last spring, holds title to the property of the late Isaiah Montgomery heirs, it was learned following the brutal murder of Miss Estella Montgomery two weeks ago. The property was formerly in the name of Mrs. Mary C. Booze, another daughter of the founder of Mound Bayou, then later was alleged to have been transferred to Eugene P. Booze, a son-in-law. However, at the time of Miss Montgomery's murder, it is stated the name of Mrs. Woods appeared on the title.

Shows Disinterest

Friends of Mrs. Woods who is the granddaughter of the late Isaiah Montgomery, say the woman living in New York has given little thought to the property she left back at home when she married Dr. Thornton H. Woods. The two lived together in New York for several years before separating. Dr. Woods joined the army as a brilliantly trained soldier, having graduated from a special training school at Carlisle, Pa. He rose from the ranks fast and soon became a major in the 369th. However, his training caused him to value his own opinions highly, a thing the army's exacting rules do not call for, and last spring a clash came about that resulted in his being asked to resign.

Fine Property

The property which Mrs. Woods holds title to is considered very valuable. The home built by the late founder of Mound Bayou is itself valued at several thousands. In addition it is surrounded by valuable lands. This, however, did not particularly attract Mrs. Woods who has preferred living in New York city. How she came to have title to the property, if the report is true, is not explained by those close to her here in New York. The woman herself will talk of the death of her aunt but not of the property which she seems to consider as just some more property belonging to her family.

Will Ask U. S. To Probe Death Of Estella Montgomery

Victim's Secretary In St. Louis Seeks Federal Inquiry Into Fatal Shooting Of Woman By Deputies In Mound Bayou, Miss.; Was Daughter of Towns Founder And Sister Of GOP National Committeewoman

Mound Bayou, Miss., Oct. 21 (ANP)—Last Sunday as more than 5,000 mourners crowded Bethel AME church here to pay their last tribute at the bier of Estella Montgomery, a request was sent from St. Louis, Mo. to Atty. General Frank Murphy of the U. S. Department of Justice, for an investigation into the fatal shooting of Miss Montgomery on Oct. 1, at the Mound Bayou home of her brother-in-law Eugene P. Booze.

Plaindealer

The letter to the Attorney General was sent by G. R. Fox of St. Louis Miss Montgomery's secretary and invested by her with power of attorney Here on a visit from her home in St. Louis, Miss Montgomery was reportedly shot nine times by two white deputy sheriffs, in the presence of Booze.

10-20-39

According to reports of the tragedy, the sheriffs went to the Booze home to force Miss Montgomery to leave, and after they broke down the barricaded door she menaced them with a butcher knife. They claim to have fired in self defense. Miss Booze was the daughter of Isiah Montgomery ,one of the founders of this all-Negro town, and a sister of Mrs. Mary C. Booze GOP National committeewoman for Mississippi.

Kansas City

It was learned this week that as a result of the request a number of citizens, headed by Mound Mayor B. A. Green, the body will be held her for 10 or 1g days, pending the investigation, after which time it will be shipped to St. Louis for burial. Mayor Green was reported as contending that the claim that Miss Montgomery attacked the deputies with a butcher knife is supported by insufficient evidence. It was also stated that the victim was shot in the back.

Fox stated in his letter to Attorney General Murphy...."As official representative of Estella Montgomery, I would ask the Department of Justice to investigate the true conditions at Mound Bayou and to institute immediately such steps as may be necessary to bring to a speedy trial all persons who are implicated in the brutal and untimely death of Estella Montgomery."

At last Sunday's funeral services here, the principal eulogy was delivered by Dr. H. W. Jennings, Bethel church pastor and others on the program were: Fred Miller, cotton buyer; Dr. A. O. Parnell, pastor of the First Baptist church, Mound Bayou; Rev. A. W. Walker, Amite, La.; W. F. Davis, local planter; Rev. A. A. Thompson, pastor Mt. Olive Baptist church: Rev. H. M. Knowley, local minister; Rev. S. F. Franklin, Port Gibson; Mrs. T. B. Walker, local school principal and Mrs. Katie Ailes, grand high priestes Knights ond daughters of Tabor.

Miss Montgomery was prominent in civic and political circles in Mound Bayou. She was a prominent Democrat and would often hold political mass meetings attracting thousands of Negroes about her She also busied herself in religious activities. After finishing her public school work at Mound Bayou she took college work at Alcorn A & M college and has attended some of the largest schools in U. S. She was once special secretary to her father when he and the late George Banks were in business.

Miss Montgomery is survived by three sisters, Mrs. Mary C. Booze, Mrs. Eva P. Canton and Miss Lillie Montgomery; one son and daughter, Harvey and Mattie Kent of St. Louis Mo.

EUGENE P.
SLAIN FRO MBUSH

Shot F
Murder

Link Death With
ella Montgomery

Chicago Defender
11/11/39

GREENVILL
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left his office in M

Physicians sta
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T-I-N

Booze died in Kings Daughters hospital
wounds received Monday night as he
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s in his body. One was in his abdomen,
hauffeur, Andrew Polk, is recovering
of the bullets intended for Booze.

MOUND BAYO
and County Attor
conduct an investi

No announcem
died in Greenville

-I-N

Attorney Ereek P. Rice, of Clarksdale,
rived here early Tuesday morning to
ng Monday night of Eugene P. Booze.
has been made here for Booze, who
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MOUND BAYOU, Miss., Nov. 10—Avenging the death of Miss Estella Montgomery, daughter of the founder of this town, who was brutally slain in her home here a month ago, an unknown assailant shot and seriously wounded Eugene P. Booze here early Monday night as he left his office on West Main street en route home. Booze, a brother-in-law of the slain woman, is held responsible for her death by fellow-townsmen, who charged that he brought in white officers from another city to oust her from her home and stood by while they pumped nine bullet holes in her body. A family feud between Booze and Miss Montgomery had been of long standing.

As Booze left his office Monday night and approached his car several shots rang out and he slumped to the side-

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Eugene Booze Shot From Ambush

Folder D

Defender
11-11-39
Chicago, Ill.

(Continued from Page 1)

mansion for himself on their father's land." Others who took part in the service were Dr. H. W. Hennings, pastor of Bethel A.M.E. church; Dr. A. D. Pernell, pastor of the First Baptist church; Rev. A. W. Walker, Amite, La.; W. F. Davis, local planter; Rev. Thompson, pastor Mt. Olive Baptist church; Rev. H. M. Knowley, local pastor; Rev. S. F. Franklin, Port Gipson; Mrs. T. B. Walker, principal of the local adult school, and Mrs. Katie Ailes, of the Sir Knights and Daughters of Tabor.

Feared for Life

Miss Montgomery at one time served as special accountant to her father, the late Isiah T. Montgomery, founder of Mound Bayou, when he and the late Charles Banks were in business together. She always charged that Eugene P. Booze who enjoyed the confidence of her father during his lifetime deceived the girls of the family by destroying the will that gave them full control of the Montgomery estate. He is married to Mrs. Mary C. Booze, now national Republican committeewoman from Mississippi. There are two other daughters, Mrs. Eva P. Canton and Miss Lillie Montgomery. Estella, known as the "fighter of the family" took Booze to court many times over property settlements. She often feared harm from Booze's hands, and often remarked to friends: "I'm going to die fighting for what father left us and want

us to enjoy after he passed on—the home he had built here during his pioneer days."

Booze has been prominent here in politics throughout the state. He has often run for mayor of the town, but on each occasion was defeated. The present mayor is Benjamin A. Green, first child born in the town, a lawyer by profession and graduate of Harvard university. He is related to the Montgomerys.

EUGENE P. BOOZE IS SLAIN FROM AMBUSH

Chicago Defender
11/11/'39

Shot Four Times; Link Death With Murder Of Miss Estella Montgomery

Defender 11-11-39 Chicago, Ill.

B-U-L-L-E-T-I-N

GREENVILLE, Miss., Nov. 10—Eugene P. Booze died in Kings Daughters hospital here about 3 a.m. Tuesday morning of gunshot wounds received Monday night as he left his office in Mound Bayou, about 50 miles from here.

Physicians stated that they found four slugs in his body. One was in his abdomen, two in his chest and one in his shoulder. His chauffeur, Andrew Polk, is recovering from a slight injury received when struck by one of the bullets intended for Booze.

B-U-L-L-E-T-I-N

MOUND BAYOU, Miss., Nov. 10—District Attorney Ereek P. Rice, of Clarksdale, and County Attorney Ed. Green, both white, arrived here early Tuesday morning to conduct an investigation of the mysterious slaying Monday night of Eugene P. Booze.

No announcement of funeral arrangements has been made here for Booze, who died in Greenville about 3 o'clock Tuesday morning.

MOUND BAYOU, Miss., Nov. 10—Avenging the death of Miss Estella Montgomery, daughter of the founder of this town, who was brutally slain in her home here a month ago, an unknown assailant shot and seriously wounded Eugene P. Booze here early Monday night as he left his office on West Main street en route home. Booze, a brother-in-law of the slain woman, is held responsible for her death by fellow-townsmen, who charged that he brought in white officers from another city to oust her from her home and stood by while they pumped nine bullet holes in her body. A family feud between Booze and Miss Montgomery had been of long standing.

As Booze left his office Monday night and approached his car several shots rang out and he slumped to the sidewalk with two bullet wounds in his chest. His chauffeur, Andrew Polk, who attempted to come to his rescue was also shot, but not seriously. The gunman made good his escape, leaving no clew as to his identity. No arrests have been made. Everyone holds to the theory that the shooting is an aftermath of the slaying of Booze's sister-in-law since there is no foundation to other rumors that he had enemies through business dealings.

BOOZE "WALKS ALONE"

Since the slaying of Miss Montgomery—which leaders of the town claim was nothing short of murder—Eugene Booze has been an "outcast" here. He is known now as "the man who walks alone." Recently a group of 500 citizens assembled at a protest mass-meeting demanding that he resign his post as an official on the Bolivar county school board which controls the educational system of Mound Bayou. They charged that "he sets a bad example for the youth of the Race" and that his influence for good and respect in the community has been destroyed by the part he played in accomplishing the death of his wife's sister.

Ever since the tragedy, Booze has felt the sting of ostracism from his townsmen and is believed to have taken precautions to arm himself. However, it has not been reported that any weapon was found on his body when he was shot.

According to those who were near the scene of the tragedy which occurred on Sunday night, Oct. 1, Booze felt rather jubilant over the outcome. He was in the midst of a reception given in honor of Prof. C. M. Green, new principal of the Bolivar county training school, and faculty when the two white officers notified him of their presence in the community. They possessed a warrant demanding that Miss Montgomery vacate her father's home which is heavily mortgaged to Booze's daughter, Mrs. E. V. Woods.

"Stella Is Dead"

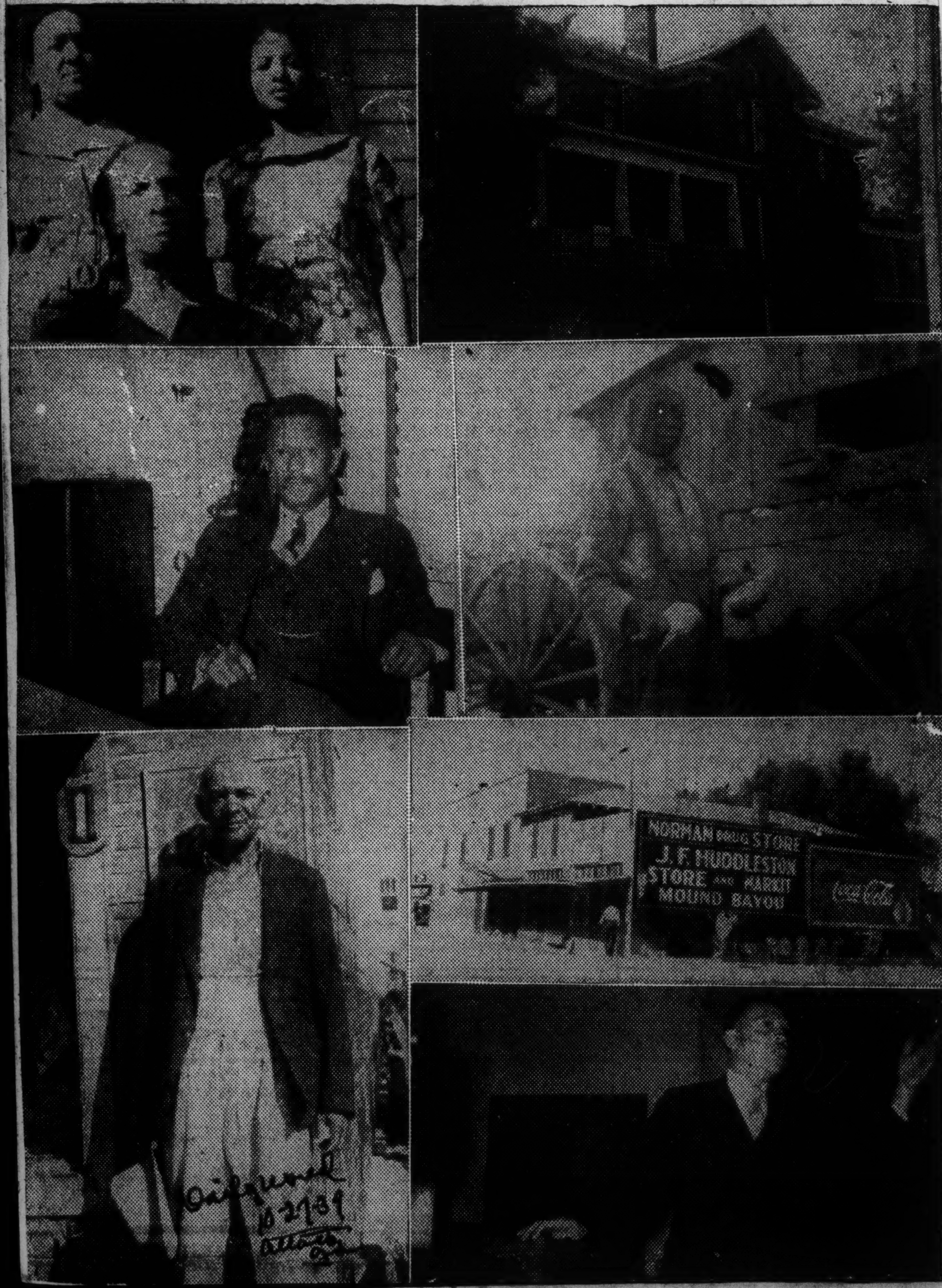
"Excuse me a moment, I am going and get Estella out of my daughter's house," Booze is quoted as having told the guests when he left the reception hurriedly. Several members of the school faculty stated that they heard the reports of guns as soon as Booze and the officers entered the house. Shortly thereafter Booze is said to have reappeared at the social and shouted, "Well, Stella is dead!"

It was revealed that at least six of the bullets had pierced Miss Montgomery's back after she fell to the floor. The first bullet, according to the physician's report, brought instant death.

Approximately 5,000 persons attended the funeral of Miss Montgomery at which Booze was denounced in no uncertain terms. Fred Miller, cotton buyer, fraternal leader and former national president of the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, said on the occasion, "I don't see how a brother-in-law with loving care for three sisters could have had the audacity to put them out of their home, giving it to his own daughter, after he had built a magnificent and gorgeously furnished

See BOOZE, Page 2

Md. Bayou Protests Montgomery Slaying



Daily World 10-27-39 Atlanta, Ga.

MEMPHIS, Tenn.—(SNS)— Present in Mound Bayou, Miss., last Thursday, October 19, when the all-Colored town staged a mammoth mass meeting, protesting the slaying of Miss Estella Montgomery, daughter of the late I. T. Montgomery, co-founder of the nationally known community was a staff photographer-writer to give WORLD readers of the Memphis and the Delta the above pictures

Daily World 10-27-39 Atlanta, Ga.

Left to right, top row are Mrs. Eva Canton, Miss Lillie Bell Montgomery, seated and Miss Camille Canton, daughter of Mrs. Canton. Mrs. Canton and Miss Montgomery are sisters of the slain Estella Montgomery, and the conspicuously absent Mrs. Mary P. Booze, wife of Eugene P. Booze, who has been severely criticized by the townsmen for bringing in white Bolivar County officers to evict Miss Estella Montgomery from the old Montgomery Homestead, shown right end, top, but shot her nine times during a fracas at the residence on the Sunday evening of October 1st.

Middle row, left end, Mayor Ben A. Greene, Mayor of Mound Bayou, and the first child born in the town. His father, with I. T. Montgomery, helped to clear away the wilderness to establish in the heart of the Delta the town now known all over the world as Mound Bayou. He presided at the Mass Meeting Thursday night. Center row, right end is one of the typical farmers of the community who attended the meeting. He is James Price, pioneer citizen, who has lived in Mound Bayou 51 years, having come to the town when it was only one year old. He holds two ears of corn grown on his farm.

Third row, left end: John Thomas, Mound Bayou Peace Officer, and City Marshall for twenty years. Mound Bayou has torn down its town jail for lack of prisoners. Top section of third row, group of buildings housing progressive business concerns, a drug store, grocery, cafe, and 5 and 10 cents store. Bottom section, third row, Fred Miller, well known planter and long-time resident of Mound Bayou shown in a characteristic gesture as he addressed his fellow-citizens on the slaying of the Montgomery daughter. Mr. Miller is a distinguished leader in the Republican Party and president of the Elks State organization in Mississippi.

Mr. and Mrs. Eugene P. Booze have remained in Mound Bayou during the entire stir, but neither attended the funeral services held Sunday, October 8. At the mass meeting a public collection was taken up with which to cover the burial expense of the slain Montgomery daughter, and the body was not buried in the Montgomery burial plot. This was expressly denied by the Booze family, a WORLD reporter was told during his visit to Mound Bayou. It was at the Montgomery homestead, shown in the upper right hand corner, where white officers came in from Cleveland, Miss., and fatally shot Mrs. Estella Montgomery, reputedly after she had attempted to attack them with a butcher knife.

Ask E. P. Booze To Resign Position On School Board

By STAFF WRITER

Daily World 10-27-39 Atlanta, Ga.

MEMPHIS, Tenn.—(SNS)— Thursday of last week, October 19 approximately five hundred citizens of Mound Bayou gathered at the beautifully appointed and spacious Bethel African Methodist Episcopal church in response to a call to present a unified front to solve the problems besetting the peace, security and welfare of the community as a whole in the slaying of Miss Estella Montgomery, daughter of one of the town's founder, on Sunday, October 1st. Many times have peace-loving, God fearing citizens gathered at Bethel during their hours of worship or to join with others in commemoration of some outstanding historical event. But never in the colorful history of this all-colored town whose fame is far-flung have they gathered on such occasion as the one that beckoned them last Thursday.

These people came from all outlying districts. They came in automobiles, wagons, on mules, by foot. They were men and women who had spent long hours in the field under the boiling son, gathering their crop at mid-harvest time Many had hardly had time to prepare their evening meals. They were anxious to contribute their bit to help in whatever humble way they could to preserve that peace, harmony, security and freedom from oppression that had been theirs to share and enjoy since the founding of this community 52 years ago.

They filed in the church silently and sat quietly in the pews until it seemed that they were a part of the tragedy themselves. A hushed atmosphere prevailed, for no one spoke during this preliminary moment. They stared into space, as though everything had occurred to suddenly threaten their very existence. "Was this thing only a nightmare?" their quizzical faces seemed to ask. Surely so great a calamity could not befall this community where all had been peace and serenity for lo this half century of its existence.

These good people of the Delta many descendents of the early pioneers, were soon to realize that no mental reverie could undo the act. It must be faced as a stark reality. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Ben Greene, who stated the purpose for which it was called. Then came a prayer by one of the townsmen. It was more than a prayer. It was a plea, a petition to Providence to endow the leaders and citizens of this community with courage, and wisdom to restore peace, harmony and security. The right of the community to pursue happiness in its own way without disturbing outside influence.

Mayor Greene himself opened with the statement: "Mound Bayou is facing a crisis such as it never has faced since its founding. The very principles upon which it was founded, the principles for which the early pioneers left home in other communities to come to a wilderness, were being placed in jeopardy. The burden rested on the shoulders of every man and woman to preserve those principles that this town with duly constituted government of the people, for the people and by the people shall not perish and the sacrificial efforts of the founders shall not have been in vain."

Men and women who had cast their lot this community, believing and trusting in the future of Mound Bayou as a haven of refuge from oppression, seeking only peace, happines sand security for their children to rear them to be peaceful, law-abiding citizens in an environment free from prejudice, men and women who had braved the early perils and hardships such as is the lot of the pioneers, to wrest from the friendly, bountiful earth a meager livelihood, men and women who had faced flood near famine, fire and other obstacles that threatened their very existence, with stoic calm and courage and cut of every misfortune continued undaunted to carry on with prayers on their lips and faith in their heart, with never a complaint, never doubting that their humble efforts would bear fruit in the preservation of the ideals and principles upon which this community was founded, were those who attended this meeting last Thursday evening. They were the ones, who when trying to express their feeling about this tragedy, could not do so for the emotions that moved them to tears.

"'An act of God to bring us closer together," one speaker said. "An atrocious, deliberate act, to bring disgrace and humiliation to the community," said another.

Still another townsmen related how he had moved to Mound Bayou in order that his children may attend the school of this community and had been saddend by the fact that his two daughters, now residing in Detroit, Michigan, refused to return to Mound Bayou under such circumstances.

Dr. B. M. George, prominent physician of the community, and Prof. P. M. Smith, Chief Grand Mentor of the Knights and Daughters of Tabor. are to be commended for their sane, sound advice and suggestions. They urged the townsmen not to lose courage and confidence in the face of the crisis but to remain in command of the situation. To take those steps and actions that may be for the past interest of the future of Mound Bayou.

Many speakers were bitter in their denunciation of the part played by Eugene P. Booze, brother-in-law of the slain woman, and well known in political circles. No words were spared nor punches pulled regarding sentiment and feeling. Many indicated bitter and vitriolic feeling in the matter.

A motion was made to appoint a committee on resolutions to express the sentiment of the body. Composing this committee were Dr. B. M. George, mortician; Emmet Ford, S. L. Davis and Fred H. Miller, nationally known Elk leader and planter of Mound Bayou. The resolution was as follows:

RESOLVED:

The people of Mound Bayou, in regards to the death of Estella Montgomery, on October 1, 1939. feel that this unfortunate tragedy was wholly uncalled for. We further feel that not even ordinary courtesy to our community was exercised by a so-called leader.

We further believe that no one who firmly believes in the principles upon which Mound Bayou was founded, could have acted as was done in this instance. We disapprove 100 per cent, of the actions of E. P. Booze, citizen of our town who brought this upon us.

We further request that the Sheriff be asked not to send an enforcement officer into our community unless he has reason to believe his orders will not be carried out by the elected officers of our town or deputies appointed by him in our town.

Mississippi Hog Ear Loses Its Jewel

Tribune

11-25-39

"There hasn't been a prisoner in the city jail for more than two years and we haven't had a murder in more than four years. Our people go to church instead of jail."

The above is a boast made some years ago of his city, Mound Bayou Miss., by Mayor B. A. Green, Harvard graduate.

But recently something tragic has happened in the little all-colored town. Miss Estella Montgomery sister of Mrs. E. P. Booze Republican national committeewoman, was shot to death in the Booze home under peculiar circumstances. On November 6, Eugene P. Booze, brother-in-law of Miss Montgomery and State Republican committeeman, was assassinated.

Washington

Talk about a jewel in a hog's ear — well, there was a time when we would point to Mound Bayou. We felt that ther was something wrong in the larger communities where men went about turning burglars and slaying their fellow citizens.

We wondered how Mound Bayou got away with such exemplary conduct while surrounded with conditions of mobocracy and violence.

Now, however, it appears that civilization and its attending evils have moved into the little all-colored town. Thus security of life and property in this once haven regrettably becomes an old-time virtue as in the communities at large.—Journal and Guide.

Evidence In Slaying Is Found

Daily World

District Atty. Certain He Can Find Killers

12-12-39

Atlanta Ga.

MOUND BAYOU, Miss.—(ANP)— Acting on orders from Gov. White, four squadrons of Mississippi national guardsmen under command of Major T. B. Birdsong, Jr., state commissioner of public safety and head of the state riot division, raided this all-Negro town Tuesday night and arrested 11 persons in 16 whiskey and gambling places.

District Attorney Greek P. Rice of Clarksdale, who asked the governer to order the raid, said additional evidence had been produced in the November 6 ambush slaying of Eugene P. Booze, Republican leader, whose car was riddled with 26 bullets.

SEIZE WISKEY

According to Rice, this 52-year-old town which until recently had a reputation as a model community is "an intolerable den of vice." The guardsmen seized 50 gallons of whiskey and smashed gaming tables and slot machines in 12 of the places raided.

"I feel certain now that we can bring about the arrest and conviction of Booze's slayers," Rice declared Friday. "Vice of all kinds has been rampant and intolerable and white citizens of Bolivar county asked us to break it up."

Mrs. Booze is Republican committeewoman and daughter of the town's founder, Isaiah T. Montgomery, who wanted Mound Bayou maintained as a model for the establishment of other Negro towns in the nation.

But imported racketeers, engaged here in law violations, have given the town a black eye and "probably participated in the slaying of Booze in front of his low office," the district attorney said.

LEAVES FOR CHICAGO

Rice left here Saturday for Chicago where it was understood he would investigate the possibility that fugatives from the Mississippi city have been hiding out here.

The recent unsolved murder of Booze is the second violent death in this town of 1,000 population since the summer and one of the few this century. Several years ago the town jail was demolished as unnecessary.

Shortly before the politician's slaying, Miss Stella Montgomery, sister-in-law and daughter of the town's founder, was killed in Booze's house by two deputy sheriffs from Cleveland, Miss., who said she resisted arrest with butcher knives when they went with Booze to oust her from the premises. Feeling ran high and it was believed in some quarters that the ambush murder of Booze may have been in retaliation.

Time To Rebuild

Commercial Appeal

12-13-39

Memphis Tenn

For more than a helf-century the all-negro community of Mound Bayou had a reputation of being something of a model town. Within a two months' period that reputation has been destroyed. Two unfortunate slayings occurred to cause the spotlight to turn on Mound Bayou, and now raids by National Guardsmen into alleged vice dens of the town have revealed conditions which are not compatible with good civic morals.

The majority of Mound Bayou's citizens are hard working, honest and ambitious, but apparently their indifference to what was developing in their community has undermined all that Isaiah Montgomery and his coworkers accomplished with their Mound Bayou plan.

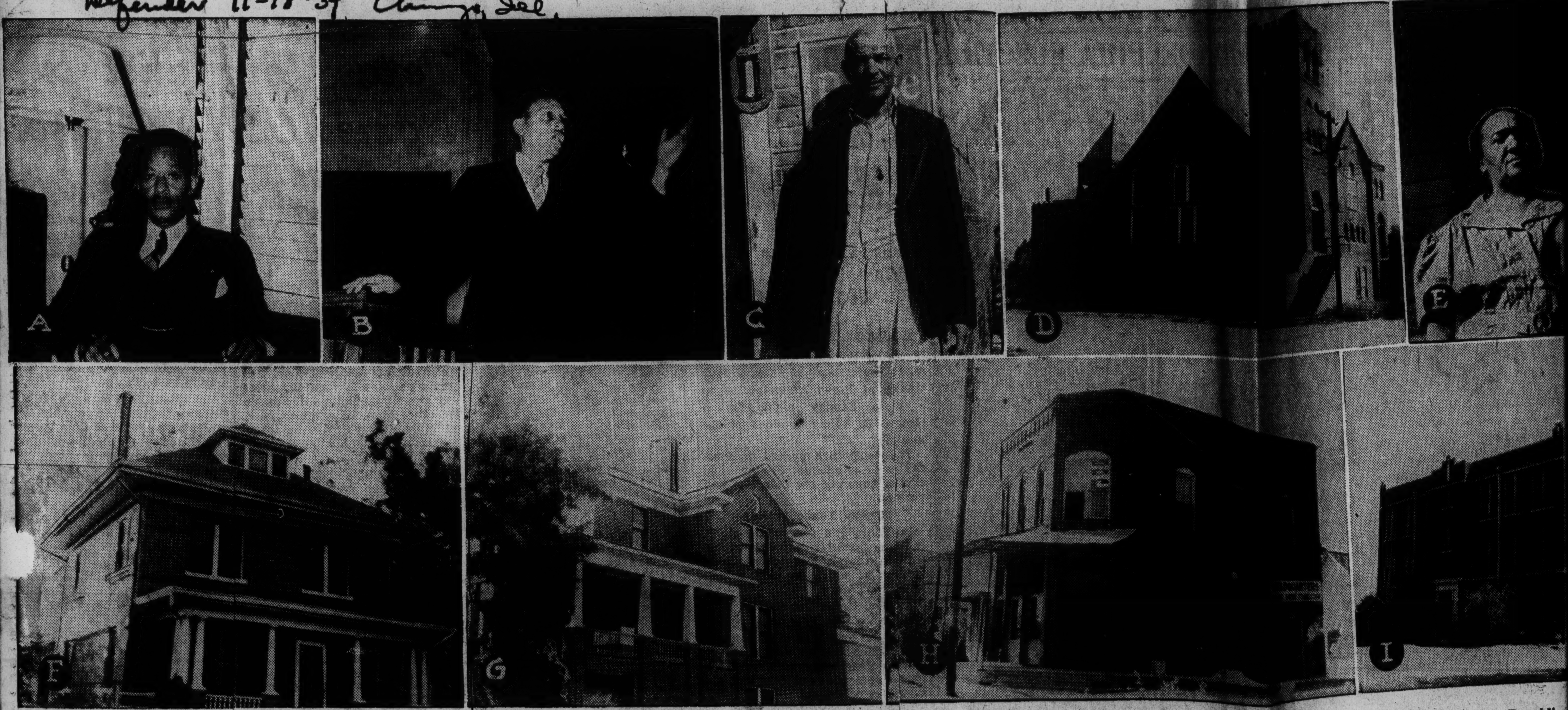
If they have a regard for their own welfare and wish to restore their community to the good reputation it enjoyed they will step in, drive the racketeers and vice operators out and not depend on the state's forces to do it for them.

✓ ✓

Nov. 18, 1939

MOUND BAYOU, MISS.,—WHERE OFFICIALS PROBE DEATH OF EUGENE

Defender 11-18-39 Chicago, Ill.



Mound Bayou, Miss., center of an investigation into the death of Eugene P. Booze, nationally known Republican leader, who died Tuesday morning, Nov. 7, of gunshot wounds received the previous night, is a thriving town, founded and run entirely by members of the Race. Booze's slaying followed recent public demonstrations against him inspired by the slaying by white police officials on October 1, of Miss Estella Montgomery, daughter of the founder of Mound Bayou. Pictured here are persons and places of interest in Mound Bayou in connection with the slaying. (A) Mayor B. A. Green of Mound Bayou. (B) Vice Mayor Fred H. Miller who was arrested in Clarksdale for questioning in the Booze murder. (C) John Thomas, marshal of Mound Bayou, who was ignored by Booze when the latter secured a warrant for the arrest of Miss Montgomery by officers outside of town. (D) Bethel A.M.E. church, where citizens held the mass meeting against Booze. (E) Left to right: Mrs. Eva Canton, sister of Miss Montgomery; Lillie Bell Montgomery, another sister, and Miss Camille Canton, daughter of Mrs. Canton. (F) The home of Eugene P. Booze and his wife, Mary C. Booze, national Republica (G) The home of Isaiah T. M where Miss Montgomery wa office and building of Eugene ing school, where Booze wa from the board following th Jones-Purdy, Memphis.

Georgia Negroes' Key To Happiness Found In Little Citv All Their Own

BY MARK TEMPLE

MAYFIELD, Ga.—(AP)—This is the story of another project—a farm project—but there are no government millions involved, no alphabetical organizations in charge, no federal benefits asked.

It is a homely tale which starts shortly after the Civil War when three Negro slaves, finding themselves free and dependent upon the community, set about to better their own condition and the condition of their friends and neighbors.

The result is known today as "Log Cabin Community," a section in Hancock County in East-Middle Georgia, where more than 100 Negro families own 27,000 acres of land, and where they live hard working, Christian lives, send their children to school and college, and prosper in peace and contentment of their own making.

To tell the tale completely one must start at the beginning, which was in 1868 when Zach, Floyd and David Hubert crossed the sluggish Ogeechee River from Warren to Hancock County in quest of a home.

A white man, advised that the young Negro freedmen desired a place of their own, directed them to this section of the state and made arrangements by which they could buy 165 acres of land at $10 per acre.

The young Negroes had nothing to offer but their promise to pay in three equal installments. At the end of three years they had paid up every dollar of the debt, and the deeds were in their possession.

But Zach, Floyd and David were not content. They had married and children were coming along. They wanted those children to have some of the opportunities denied their parents. So they built a schoolhouse and a church.

After clearing their land, they began to prosper. White residents around them recognized the true purpose of the Negro neighbors and enabled the children of the three brothers to go to school.

The present development, sometimes called Springfield Community, did not get under way until after 1926, when Zach Hubert, and his wife, Camilla, died. They had brought 12 children into the world, and educated them all.

Before their death, the elderly couple had, by hard work and rigid economy, gotten together more than 400 acres of good farm land—every inch of it paid for.

What should be done with this land?

The Hubert children decided that one of them, Benjamin F. Hubert (now president of Georgia State College for Negroes at Savannah, should take it over. Benjamin made his father's land serve members of his race.

He realized that his people needed some way of cooperative economic activity, recreation, improvement of health and development of schools and churches.

The Log Cabin Community Center was the first part of the answer.

This center, planned, built and furnished by Negroes, is made of native rock and stone and other materials right at hand. It serves as a nucleus for community life of Negroes living nearby, and is in continuous use for exhibits, plays, lectures and social get-togethers.

Since the center was dedicated in 1932, there has been constructed around it a health center, a rural parsonage, a swimming pool and a cooperative community store.

The school has been expanded and improved.

Pure-bred hogs, beef cattle and chickens have been introduced.

The people have been encouragd to grow crops which may be canned for their own use and sale.

Flour is made from wheat produced in the community, a soil improvement program is being carried forward, and electric lights soon will be a reality.

Negro colleges and universities, Benjamin Hubert says, "have talked about a farm program and have furnished technical information to their students, but there has been little or no attempt to bring down to earth the theories expressed in textbooks.

"Negroes have gone to college, and after leaving college have gone to urban centers. The college has, in many instances, unfitted the Negro for the job of community leadership. Nowhere has there been a real, honest-to-goodness attempt to apply the theories worked out in college."

But in this log cabin community "we are attempting to sell to the Negroes there, and to the many Negroes all over the South, the independence and joy that comes from redirected thinking and a more common sense approach to the problems that confront us."

Charlotte. N. C. Observer
March 19. 1939

NEGROES SOLVE OWN PROBLEM

Community Sends Children to College and Prospers Without Federal Aid.

BY MARK TEMPLE.
Associated Press Staff Writer.

MAYFIELD, Ga., March 18.—This is the story of another project—a farm project—but there are no government millions involved, no alphabetical organizations in charge no Federal benefits asked.

It is a homely tale which starts shortly after the Civil war when three negro slaves, finding themselves free and dependent upon the community, set about to better their own condition and the condition of their friends and neighbors.

The result is known today as "log cabin community," a section in Hancock county in east-middle Georgia, where more than 100 negro families own 27,000 acres of land, and where they live hard working, Christian lives, send their children to school and college, and prosper in peace and contentment of their own making.

To tell the tale completely one must start at the beginning, which was in 1868 when Zach, Floyd, and David Hubert crossed the sluggish Ogeechee river from Warren to Hancock county in quest of a home.

A white man, advised that the young negro freedmen desired a place of their own, directed them to this section of the state and made arrangements by which they could buy 165 acres of land at $10 an acre.

The young negroes had nothing to offer but their promise to pay in three equal installments. At the end of three years they had paid up every dollar of the debt, and the deeds were in their possession.

But Zach, Floyd, and David were not content. They had married and children were coming along. They wanted those children to have some of the opportunities denied their parents. So they built a schoolhouse, and a church.

After clearing their land, they began to prosper. White residents around them recognized the true purpose of the negro neighbors and enabled the children of the three brothers to go to school. Today the community probably has sent more of its young people away to college than any similar rural community in Georgia.

The present development, sometimes called Springfield community, did not get under way until after 1926, when Zach Hubert, and his wife, Camilla, died. They had brought 12 children into the world, and educated them all.

Before their death, the elderly couple had, by hard work and rigid economy, gotten together over 400 acres of good farm land—every inch of it was paid for.

What should be done with this land?

The Hubert children decided that one of them, Benjamin F. Hubert (now president of Georgia State College for Negroes at Savannah) should take it over and Benjamin made his father's land serve members of his race.

He realized that his people needed some way of co-operative economic activity, recreation, improvement of health and development of schools and churches.

The log cabin community center was the first part of the answer.

This center, planned, built and furnished by negroes, is made of native rock and stone and other materials right at hand. It serves as a nucleus for community life of negroes living nearby, and is in continuous use for exhibits, plays lectures, and social get-togethers.

PRODUCE OWN FOOD.

Since the center was dedicated in 1932, there has been constructed around it a health center, a rural parsonage, a swimming pool, and a co-operative community store.

The school has been expanded and improved.

Pure-bred hogs, beef cattle and chickens have been introduced.

The people have been encouraged to grow crops which may be canned for their own use and sale.

Flour is made from wheat produced in the community, a soil improvement program is being carried forward, and electric lights soon will be a reality.

A summer school for rural negro teachers is held each summer by the Georgia State college of the University of Georgia system, co-operating with the local county school board.

Summer training camps for boys and girls are annuals; wild life camps and farm conferences for the people of middle Georgia are frequent. The Episcopal diocese of Georgia this summer will hold a religious training camp for negro youth.

Negro colleges and universities, Benjamin Hubert says, "have talked about a farm program and have furnished technical information to their students, but there has been little or no attempt to bring down to earth the theories expressed in textbooks.

"Negroes have gone to college, and after leaving college have gone to urban centers. The college has, in many instances, unfitted the negro for the job of community leadership. Nowhere has there been a real, honest-to-goodness attempt to apply the theories worked out in college."

But in this log cabin community, "we are attempting to sell to the negroes there, and to the many negroes all over the south, the independence and joy that comes from redirected thinking and a more common sense approach to the problems that confront us."

"And it seems to me," he concludes, "that white people could render no better service now to Georgia and the South than to help in every way possible to push forward such a program as we have started at log cabin center. Negibili- must be made to see the poss and ties still inherent in the farmly of among the farm people, not oras a Georgia, but of the South 7 whole."

Negroes' Freedom-Born Community Plays Important Rural Life Role

Log Cabin's 100 Families Now Own 27,000 Fertile Acres in Hancock County, School, Church, Health Center and Other Enterprises.

By MARK TEMPLE.

Associated Press Staff Writer.

MAYFIELD, Ga., March 18.—(AP) This is the story of another project—a farm project—but there are no government millions involved, no alphabetical organizations in charge, no federal benefits asked.

It is a homely tale which starts shortly after the War Between the States when three negro slaves, finding themselves free and dependent upon the community, set about to better their own condition and the condition of their friends and neighbors.

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Const

3-19-39

Mound Bayou, All-Negro Town, Marks Anniversary

7-20-40

MOUND BAYOU, Miss., (ANP)—The 53rd anniversary of the founding of Mound Bayou, the all-Negro town in the heart of the Mississippi Delta, was observed July 12. it was announced this week by Major A. B. Green.

Settled in 1887 by Isaiah T. Montgomery and B. T. Green, Mound Bayou, is owned and governed entirely by Negroes. Founded in a section which at the time was a semi-tropical wilderness without a railroad, the town has grown into a modern community surrounded by rich cotton farms and a cultural environment. It was incorporated in 1898.

Isaiah T. Montgomery, a former slave, was one of the best known men in the state, served a term as member of the state legislature. His descendants now aid in conduct of the town.

Six thousand persons live in the rural area surrounding Mound Bayou. The town has a high school with an enrollment of nearly 800, several private schools and another high school, to be operated by the Baptist churches of the county, is scheduled to be built this year.

A $50,000 hospital is now under construction by the Mississippi Jurisdiction of the Knights and Daughters of Tabor.

Mound Bayou has 7 churches, 17 grocery stores, a hotel, a 5-and-10 cent store, a motuary, a newspaper, a drug store, 5 cafes, 3 cotton gins, a job printing office, a physician, a dentist, a lawyer and a telephone exchange.

The present mayor, B. A. Green, a son of one of the founders, is a graduate of Fisk university and the Harvard law school.

Montgomery Homestead At Mound Bayou Is Sold

Courier OCT 19 1940

Pittsburgh Pa.

MOUND BAYOU, Miss., Oct. 17 (ANP)—The famous mansion which was the homestead of the late Isiah Montgomery, founder of the all-Negro town of Mound Bayou, has been sold to A. C. Springfield, Sr., of Round Lake, Miss. Mr. Springfield, a successful merchant and planter, said he had not decided just what use he would put the mansion to, but that he hoped it would always be a monument to the life and work of Mr. Montgomery. The home, formerly occupied by the late Eugene and Mrs. Mary Booze, Mr. Montgomery's daughter and son-in-law, has been the center of controversy since the found- the tragic death of Mr. Booze some er's death, figuring somewhat in months ago.

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Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

MOUND BAYOU SUFFERS HEAVY FIRE DAMAGES

Miss

Heart Of Business District Destroyed By Flames

Special to The Commercial Appeal

MOUND BAYOU, Miss., Jan. 6.—The heart of the business section of this all-negro town was destroyed by fire of unknown origin early Monday morning.

J. W. Casey, John Thomas and Johnny James, who were asleep in the Bolton Building were almost overcome by smoke and heat and barely escaped with their lives.

Business places destroyed included O. K. Food Store, Gaiter's Pool Room, Edward Variety Store, Trammel Cafe, Huddleston's Grocery and Market; Norman Drug Store, Ruby's Cafe, Lee's Grocery, Blue Heaven Cafe and Walker's Barber Shop.

A fire engine from Cleveland, nine miles south of Mound Bayou, arrived in time to save the Y. & M. V. depot.

Damage was estimated at $50,000.

JAN 7 1941

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News
Birmingham, Ala.

All-Negro Town Of 1,000 Prospers

Mound Bayou, Miss., Keeps Goodwill Of Whites; Has Had Only One Serious Crime In 53 Years

BY BEVERLY YOUNG

MOUND BAYOU, Miss. —(P)— This peaceful all-Negro town of 1,000 persons has torn down its jail because Marshal John Thomas can't find anybody to put in it.

Sprawled out in a lush section of the Mississippi cotton country, Mound Bayou, thought here to be the oldest all-Negro community in the nation, has had but one serious crime—a murder—in the 53 years since its founding.

"We're all the same color and understand each other, so we just naturally get along together," drawled jovial P. M. Smith, a town leader and international grand chief mentor of the Knights and Daughters of Tabor, Negro fraternal organization.

Marshal Thomas gets no salary. He just shares in fines. Mound Bayou folk say if he didn't do some farming on the side he'd starve.

There isn't a white man in the town. A Chinese grocer operated a rented store for a while but he moved away last year.

Often referred to as the "Harlem of the Deep South," this unique, self-governing community is a typical cotton village—the railroad splitting it wide open, the usual stores, filling stations, gins and churches, and the usual loafers lolling drowsily about in the sun.

But Mound Bayou is unusual in that it has its home-owned telephone and water systems and a three-story, $115,000 school building with 1,000 pupils, a principal and 14 teachers who are all college graduates.

There's a newspaper and printing plant, too, and a modern hospital costing $65,000 is under construction. The institution will have a staff of three doctors, plus nurses. It is being built by the Knights and Daughters of Tabor, whose membership numbers 25,000 Negroes in Mississippi alone.

The Mississippi State Board of Health reports that Mound Bayou ranks favorably in health as compared with other towns in the state and that sanitation is probably above the average Mississippi town.

There has been no typhoid fever in more than 15 years, and no smallpox or diphtheria in the last 10 years.

Once a jungle-like swamp, this picturesque settlement was founded in 1887 by Isaiah T. Montgomery and his cousin, Benjamin T. Green, both former slaves of Jefferson Davis, president of the Confederacy.

To "Mr. Jeff," Montgomery partly attributed his idea of building a community solely for members of his own race. At that time a railroad (now the Yazoo & Mississippi Valley) had completed its lines from Memphis to New Orleans. Anxious to develop the territory but believing that only slavery-hardened Negroes could cope successfully with the wild, almost semi-tropical region, the railroad interested Montgomery in starting the town along its right-of-way.

Succeeds From Start

The former slave had had experience as a foreman and office helper on the big Davis plantation. With his cousin's help, he laid out Mound Bayou. Other Negro pioneers followed and gradually the unbroken wilderness was cleared, cabins built and crops planted.

The experiment succeeded from the start. Stores sprang up and farms thrived. Both Montgomery and Green died wealthy men, and many other Negroes have grown prosperous from their farm and business holdings.

Soft-spoken Benjamin A. Green, Harvard law school graduate and son of Co-Founder Green, was the first child born in the experimental town. He has been mayor since 1919.

Mound Bayou has a town tax of 16 mills on the dollar and manages —but not without a struggle—to live within its $3,500 annual budget. Its bonded indebtedness is $11,500. "It's been pretty tough sledding at times," admitted a town leader, "but somehow we've managed." During poor crop periods, he said, town officials often voluntarily slice their salaries to a dollar a year in order to keep things solvent.

"We don't press the poor folks too much when tax times roll around," he declared. "If we know they haven't got the money to pay, we just manage to get along without it."

Overwhelmingly Republican, Mound Bayou doesn't go in much for state elections. In Democratic Mississippi, its support couldn't help the GOP cause measurably, the town fathers reason.

"But, boy, we do have some warm town elections," grinned good-humored, college-educated B. A. Wade, 29-year-old editor and publisher of The Southern Advocate, Mound Bayou newspaper. "Things get plenty hot at times but after the election's over we just forget about it."

Although Mayor Green has defeated all comers since 1919, there's always plenty of opposition. Aldermen are unseated and new ones named in virtually every campaign. The town still uses the same ballot box into which the votes were dropped during the first election back in 1896.

"Candidates do a lot of speechmaking and button-holin'," Wade said, "but those elections are really run straight. We take our politics seriously and wouldn't stand for any monkey business."

Mound Bayou's vice-mayor is Dr. P. M. George, keen-eyed little physician, born 45 years ago in St. Lucia, British West Indies. He is a graduate of the College of the City of New York and Meharry Medical College, Nashville, Tenn. He came here in 1927.

Sheriff Praises People

Mississippi is "dry," but Wade said there was little bootlegging in the Mound Bayou area. "You see a few drinkers every Saturday night or so but usually they're outsiders. Folks hereabouts don't go in for that much. Once in a while, though," he grinned, showing white, shiny molars, "we kinda wish we'd hung on to that jail."

Shootings, razor slashings and icepick stabbings are common occurrences among Southern Negroes, but Bolivar County Sheriff E. D. Rayner ranked Mound Bayou as one of the most law-abiding communities in the county, or even the state.

"They never give me any trouble," the officer said. "They're good, humble folks."

There are seven churches in town. They used to have a bank but that "sorta failed." Mound Bayou doesn't have a theater either, but there are plenty of shows and concerts at the school.

Mound Bayouans are unrestrainedly proud of one of their first citizens, Mary C. Booze, Republican national committeewoman from Mississippi and one of the South's best-known Negroes. She is the daughter of Founder Montgomery.

Montgomery, himself, was chosen by popular vote to represent his county in the constitutional convention held in Mississippi in 1890 — long after the white man's rule had been reestablished in the state. It was this convention that inserted the famous "grandfather clause," which in effect disfranchised the Negro.

Montgomery made a speech on the convention floor favoring the "grandfather clause." In it he declared "the Negro is not prepared for the ballot. . . . The time will come when he can intelligently exercise this right but it must come through years of education and training."

More than 2,000 persons, blacks and whites, massed in and around Mound Bayou's big Bethel Church when the 77-year-old Montgomery was buried in 1924. The dignified columns of the conservative Memphis Commercial Appeal carried a 1,500-word obituary in which the famous old Negro was described as "a man with a vision, a seer who saw with the eye of the prophet the only salvation of his race."

JUN 16 1941

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Florence, S. C., Morning News
June 15, 1941

All-Negro Community Thriving In Mississippi Cotton Belt

By BEVERLY YOUNG

MOUND BAYOU, Miss., June 14— (The Special News Service) —This peaceful all-negro town of 11,000 persons has torn down its jail because Marshal John Thomas can't find anybody to put in it.

Sprawled out in a lush section of the Mississippi cotton country, quaint Mound Bayou, thought here to be the oldest all-negro community in the nation, has had but one serious crime —a murder—in the 53 years since its founding.

"We're all the same color and understand each other so we just naturally get along together," drawled Jovial P. M. Smith, a town leader and international grand chief mentor of the Knights and Daughters of Tabor, negro fraternal organization.

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73-1941
Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Mound Bayou Business S
Destroyed By Disastr

A 73

Probe Ordered by Mayor Green and Officials of Cleveland Fire Department After $30,000 Blaze Wrecks Section.

Jn 155

1941 JAN 18 1941

MOUND BAYOU, Miss., Jan. 16—A fire of unknown origin, striking here about 2:30 a.m., Monday morning, destroyed about two-thirds of the business places of this all-Negro town. Flames completely devoured eight of the stores located on the main highway and did about $30,000 damages.

The fire apparently started in the rear of J. W. Casey's store, and had gained considerable headway when discovered, according to B. A. Green, mayor of the town. Mayor Green continued: "The fire started about 2:30 or 3 a.m., when residents of the city were asleep. The blaze was fanned by a high wind and the frame structures were quickly turned into an inferno. Help was summoned from Cleveland, Miss. It did not arrive in time to save the burning stores, but their efforts probably saved the destruction of the Y. M. & V. Railroad station, just a few yards south of the scene."

No one was injured in the disastrous blaze. More than a dozen men, women and children were ushered to safety by neighbors. Three men who were asleep in the Belton building at the time of the blaze, narrowly escaped death before the building was destroyed. Those escaping were: John Thomas, Johnny James and J. W. Casey.

Some of the establishments destroyed by the fire were: Joe Gaitor's Poolroom, I. E. Edwards store, known as Edwards' Variety Store; Trammel's Cafe, Hudleston Grocery and Market, O. I. Food Store, Ruby's Cafe, Norman's Drug Store, Blue Heaven Cafe, Walker's Barber Shop and Genevieve Johnson's Cafe.

An investigation into the $30,000 fire will be held by Mayor Green and officials of the Cleveland fire department. As yet no one knows how the fire started.

Plans for rebuilding are underway, according to Mayor Green, and the future buildings will have to be fireproof. The debris is being cleared away and new material is being rushed to immediately start rebuilding of destroyed buildings.

A volunteer fire company is being organized in an effort to prevent a similar occurrence. About $35,000 will be spent by the city for equipment, the laying of water mains and the erection of a fire department building. All help will be volunteers, and the most modern fire fighting apparatus will be purchased to fight future fires.

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MISSISSIPPI
Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Mound Bayou Starts Rebuilding Program

JAN 14 1941

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MOUND BAYOU, Miss., Jan— "Defective wiring in the grocery store of J. W. Casep's is being blamed for the $50,000 blaze that destroyed two-thirds of the business section of this All-Negro town early last Monday morning," according to B. A. Green, Mayor of Mound Bayou.

INVESTIGATION HELD

An investigation into the fire was held by Mayor Green. He was assisted by officials of Cleveland, Miss. Fire Department, a few days ago Mayor Green said "We can't say definitely that the exact cause of the blaze is known, but, we firmly believe it was caused by defective wiring."

GROCER FIRST TO DISCOVER BLAZE

The fire that apparently started in the rear of the grocery store of J. W. Casey, was discovered by him about 2:30 a. m., last Monday morning, it was discovered at an hour when all of the residents of the town were fast asleep the blaze was fanned by a sixty mile an hour gale and rapidly turned the frame buildings into a blazing inferno and was completely out of control upon arrival of fire fighting apparatus summoned from Cleveland, Miss., nine miles south of here, however, they were able to prevent the spreading of the blaze to other adjoining buildings and saved the YM and V railroad station. that was in the immediate path of the fire a few yards south.

Residents of the town were summoned to the scene by the ringing of the Church Bells, blowing of horns, but they they arrived handicapped as the flame had gathered too much leadway and the lack of apparatus prevented them from combating the blaze that destroyed Norman's Drug Store; O. K. Food Market, Trammels Cafe, Huddelson Grocery and Market, Ruby's Cafe, Blue Heaven Cafe, Joe Gaitors Poolroom; Walker's Barbershop, Genevieve Johnson's Cafe, all were located on the main highway that leads through the city.

FIRE COMPANY BEING ORGANIZED

Immediately following the disastrious blaze Mayor B. A. Green announced that through additional city taxation, more than $35,000 would be expended by the city for the purchase of a site and the fire department. The proposed structure will be fire proof and modern in every detail, also it will be equipped with the latest motorized fire fighting apparatus it will be manned by volunteer firemen who will combat future fires for the 2000 or more habitants of this city. In the erection of the new fire department, first to be installed here, new water mains will be laid. fire plug conveniently situated.

JAN 14 1941

Towns & Settlement

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73-1942
The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

Negro Town Dedicates New $100,000 Hospital

FEB 26 1942

(Special to the Daily Worker)

MOUND BAYOU, Miss., Feb. 25.—The new $100,000 hospital recently built in this all-Negro town by the Knights and Daughters of Tabor, a Negro fraternal organization, was dedicated last week before a crowd of 10,000 persons gathered from all parts of the state. The hospital is one of the finest in the South.

Daily World
Atlanta, Georgia

Second Fire Within Year Ravages Mound Bayou

MAR 30 1942

MOUND BAYOU, Miss.—(By Percy Slaughter for ANP)—Fire again ravaged the business section of Mound Bayou Wednesday completely destroying a combination service station, store and dwelling house operated by Alex Jonhson, one of the oldest merchants of this all-Negro town. Believed to have started when an oil stove exploded, this was the second conflagration within the past year.

MAR 30 1942

The first fire broke out in January of last year and spread through the entire business section of the city, destroying practically a whole block. The town is without adequate fire-fighting equipment and must depend upon Cleveland, Miss., for its protection against fire. However, the fire department of Cleveland, a white town, has never come to the rescue of Mound Bayou.

MAR 30 1942

Mound Bayou's Mayor Greene set up a "fire zone" after the first fire as a means of curbing the building of frame houses that might easily set other buildings afire, but no steps have been taken to establish fire-fighting equipment in the city. A $100,000 hospital and several new business departments have recently been built here.

Housing

3-30-46

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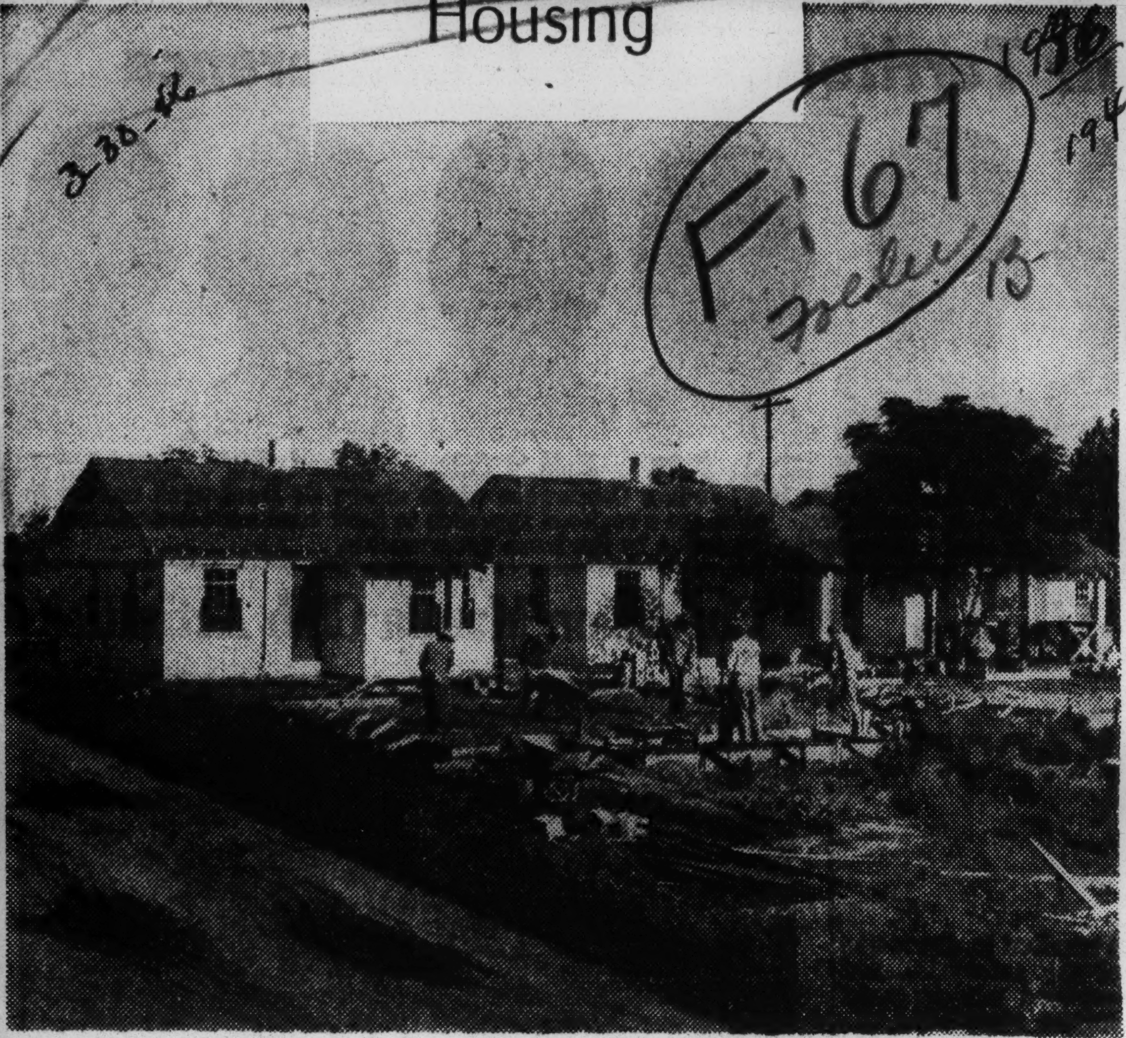
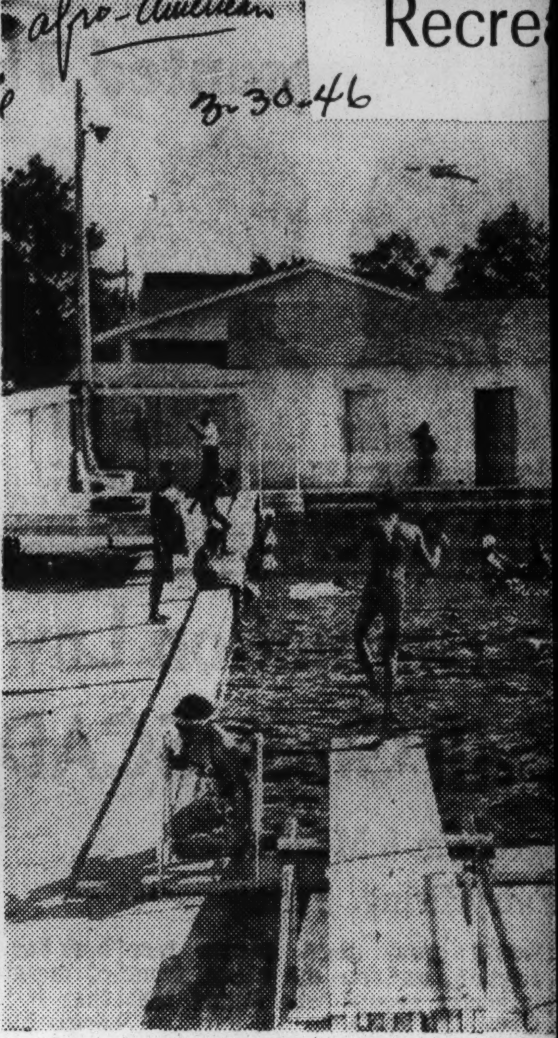
afro-American

3-30-46



Good Will Courts, Mound Bayou's first modern housing project, now under construction. The eight units in the project will have modern plumbing and electricity.

Recrea



Swimming pool in Good Will Park, Moun zoo, botanical gardens, tennis c

Afro-American Baltimore Md.

Mound Bayou Erects New Model in C

67

It's no small accomplishment to turn a small, run-down Mississippi Delta town into an enterprising, forward-looking one—but it's being done in Mound Bayou, Miss., one of the few all-colored incorporated towns in the United States. Take a look at the pictures above of the modern hospital, the swimming pool and the small housing project under construction. Here you will see the beginning of the end of three of the town's major problems: housing, recreation and hospitalization. 3.30.46

Moreover, you will see what is possible throughout the South in colored communities.

Dr. Theodore R. M. Howard was "imported" from Nashville, Tenn., four years ago to head the staff of the Taborian Hospital, a new plant erected at a cost of $100,000 by the Sir Knights and Daughters of Tabor. The plan for the hospital was presented to the Tabor organization by P. M. Smith, who is grand mentor. But Mound Bayou got far more than it bargained for. Dr. Howard came not only as a chief surgeon of the hospital, but as one who was interested in the improvement and growth of the community.

Five years ago, Mound Bayou was physically run down—juke joints, down-at-the-heel houses, no play areas for children and no hospital facilities.

Within a 75-mile radius of the town live 300,000 colored people, constituting the most densely populated colored belt in the world. Mississippi itself has a 49 per cent colored population.

And it was Dr. Howard's aim that Mound Bayou "should take the lead in all good movements to raise the standards and make conditions better for the colored people in the Mississippi Delta."

Today in Mound Bayou, the juke joints are still there, but their trade has been seriously affected by the Green Parrot's Inn, a clean, modern restaurant, and by an open-air dance pavilion.

The old houses are still there, too, but under construction are new ones—small, modern homes with plumbing and electricity. These units form Good Will Courts, a housing project.

The children now play in Good Will Park where there are tennis courts, an aquarium, a zoo, a swimming pool (the only one for colored in the State), a botanical garden, swings, see-saws and sand piles.

Dr. Howard saw that the Taborian Hospital was not enough for healthful living for the people of Mound Bayou. Proper housing and recreation are as important.

Park Cost $40,000

The park was his first venture.

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nal Spellman told 2,000 Red Cross workers and officials at a luncheon last week at the Hotel Commodore that anyone who "incites, propagates, or cherishes race hatreds is disloyal to American ideals."

He denounced racial and religious prejudice as "contrary to the principles of America, and sacrificed their lives on bloody battlefields throughout the world."

He emphasized that "men whose character and personalities differed, men of all racial origins and of diverse religious beliefs, lived, fought and died together to gain victory and peace."

Mental Purge Needed

Their common bond of patriotism "lifted them above disunion and discord, united them in devoted service to America," Cardinal Spellman declared.

He pointed out that we should "purge our minds and hearts of selfishness and bigotry," not alone for patriotic reasons, but also to "obey the Commandment to love our neighbors as ourselves."

"Live in peace," the cardinal admonished, "for death still stalks the pathways of this world, hatreds still mine the highways of humanity, and man is challenged to obey these commands."

Personal Observations

Federal Council Asks 'Riot' Probe

NEW YORK,—A full investig tion by the Governor of Tenness and the United States Depa ment of Justice of the recent int racial violence in Columbia, Ten essee, was urged by the Fede Council of the Churches on Mar. here today.

The resolution, adopted by t executive committee during its month session,is being sent to A torney General Tom C. Clark, a Governor Jim D, McCord, of Ten essee.

Indifference to Rights

In the resolution, the comm tee charged that incidents occu ring during the riot, Feb. 25- indicate "a violation of the C stitutional rights of citizens a illegal conduct on the part of icers of the law."

Specifically, the group points the searching of homes withc

Tired Kidneys Often Bring Sleepless Nights

Doctors say your kidneys contain 15 miles of tiny tubes or filters which help to purify the blood and keep you healthy. When they get tired and don't work right in the daytime, many people have to get up nights. Frequent or scanty passages with smarting and burning sometimes shows there is something wrong with your kidneys or bladder. Don't neglect this condition and lose valuable, restful sleep.

When disorder of kidney function permits poisonous matter to remain in your blood, it may also cause nagging backache, rheumatic pains, leg pains, loss of pep and energy,

Historical Negro Town Is Scene of Significant Meet

St. Louis Argus

MOUND BAYOU, Miss. Mar. 4-- The Mississippi State Committee of 100, founded by J. E. Johnson of the Prentiss Normal and Industrial Institute, held one of its most triumphant sessions ever witnessed last week in Mound Bayou.

The meetings were held in the auditorium of the high school and lasted only one day. Among subjects discussed were: Payment of Poll Tax; Consolidation of Schools; Negro Policemen; The Need of More Negro Doctors, Dentists, Pharmacists, Nurses, and Lawyers; Equalization of Teachers' Salaries; and A Defense Fund of $10,000.

To comply with the new Constitution of the Committee of 10 now in the making, Chairman E. Johnson, resigned as head of the organization and accepted a place on the Executive Board. Prof. Johnson, founder of the organization served as chairman for 22 years. Succeeding Mr. Johnson, is Dr. A. Scott, former President of Campbell College, and a well-known religious and civic leader in the state. The title of Chairman-Emeritus was also given the retiring chairman.

3-8-46

A pilgrimage to the grave of Isaiah T. Montgomery occupied a part of the schedule. Mr. Montgomery, founder of Mound Bayon, also assisted Mr. Johnson to found the Committee of 100, when it met 22 years ago in the Farish Street Baptist Church in Jackson. Appearing on this special program were: Chairman Johnson, the Rev. Z. M. Winder, Mayor Benjamin A. Green, Prof. J. H. Moseley, the Rev. A. D. Purnell, and Mrs. Hattie C. Washington of Gloster, who placed the wreath representing the Committee on Mr. Montgomery's grave.

Friday

Many of the Committee members availed themselves of the opportunity to see the different activities claimed by Mound Bayou, among which included an observation tour to the $100,000 Taborian Hospital. On several occasions during the meetings, Dr. T. M. Howard, chief surgeon at the hospital extended invitations to the group to visit the Howard Clinic, also the Taborian Institution.

67

MEDICS FAVOR MOUND BAYOU FOR HOSPITAL

Sat.

GREENVILLE, Miss. — Mound Bayou was favored, unanimously by professional men here as the site for the proposed veterans hospital.

Afro-American

202

Mound Bayou's Mayor Wants Vet Hospital Located There

Baltimore, Md.

WASHINGTON

Mayor B. C. Green of Mound Bayou, Miss., told Rep. A. C. Powell Jr. (Dem., N.Y.) that if a hospital for colored veterans is to be established in Mississippi, it should be located in Mound Bayou rather than in McComb City, because of racial prejudice there.

Mayor Green, who is in favor of the establishment of a segregated hospital in Mississippi told Rep. Powell last week that a delegation of McComb City's white citizens has already been to Washington to protest the location of the hospital there.

Killing Cited

In arguing that preference be given Mound Bayou, he stated that colored people are restricted to 'quarters' in McComb City and are not permitted to appear on the streets of the business section after 9:00 p.m.

Sat. 4-6-46

The mayor charges further that two colored soldiers were shot in McComb City last year because whites resented colored men wearing Army uniforms.

67

Mound Bayou Area Urged as State With Full Rights

Afro American

Baltimore, Md.

ST. LOUIS — In a recent petition, Congress was urged to establish "the territory of Grenada and the cosmopolitan center, Mound Bayou," as a "free and independent State."

Copies of the petition, issued through the National USA Freedmen's Aid Bureau here, were sent to Congress, Governors of the 48 States, the President, the Secretary of State, Supreme Court, General Land Office, and other State and Federal bureaus.

Specifically Congress was asked to set the boundaries and define the metes of the State of Grenada as follows:

"From the center of the channel of the Mississippi River EAST, from 32 degrees, 24 minutes to 35 degrees, North Latitude, to include an area of not less than 10,000 square miles, nor more than 22,500 square miles, nor more than 150 miles square."

In addition, the petitioners ask that the new State have jurisdiction on the Mississippi River and on every other river bordering on the State. However, they indicate a willingness to open the river routes to all without fee.

Would Not Infringe

In the lengthy document, the group expresses a hope "that nothing in the petition shall be so construed as to prejudice the claims of any property of the United States or of any individual State, or diminish or dissipate, the sovereign rights of the National State of Grenada."

5-18-46

Declaring their intention of using the Federal Constitution as the State constitution, the members ask:

"That the people of this State, have the inherent, sole and exclusive right to regulate the internal government and police thereof, and to alter and abolish their ordinance of State and form of government whenever they may deem it necessary to their safety and happiness: Provided, Such change be not repugnant to the Constitution."

Rights as State

As a free State, they point out they will have full power "to levy war, conclude peace, contract alliances, establish commerce and do all other acts and things which any other independent State, may of right, do."

The petition was signed by the following committee:

H. B. Salahadyn, president; W. E. Sanders, secretary of the treasury; G. R. Fox, secretary general; R. E. Rowlett, publicity, and J. K. Connor, commissioner-at-large.

67

Women Active In Development Of Mound Bayou

The World

Memphis, Tenn.

Fri. 9-6-46

Mesdames Howard And Key Among Pioneer Workers

CHICAGO.—The important role played by women in the remarkable development of the all-Negro town of Mound Bayou are revealed in a pictorial feature in the September issue of Ebony.

67 Miss.

Two women especially active in the pictorial account of the community's rise from ramshackle settlement to modern town are Mrs. T. R. M. Howard, wife of the local hospital's chief surgeon, and Mrs. C. L. Keys, successful merchant and councilwoman. The two matrons make continued contributions to the town's growing record of prosperity, good government and low juvenile delinquency rate.

EXCELLENT BUSINESS MANAGER

Mrs. Keys, only woman member of the town council, is one of the most astute business managers in the all-Negro community. Her sound business practices are largely credited for the town's ability to balance its budget every year. Civic improvements, too, are financed on a pay-as-you-go basis.

Mrs. Howard operates the newly-opened Green Parrot Inn in Mound Bayou's new Goodwill Park. Developed at a cost of $40,000 the park offers a dancing pavillion and the only zoo and swimming pool for Negroes in the entire state of Mississippi.

DECREASES JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

Planned to fight the juvenile delinquency bred in Mound Bayou's many juke joints, under Mrs. Howard's supervision the Green Parrot provides local youngsters with clean and respectable recreation. Although a few juke joints remain the atmosphere in each is improved, and most of the teen-agers are now regular customers of the Green Parrot.

All-Negro Town In Mississippi Is Prosperous

The Informer

Houston, Texas

Sat. 8-31-46

CHICAGO — From fever-ridden swampland to prosperous modern metropolis boasting an up-to-date hospital is the amazing record of Mississippi's all-Negro town Mound Bayou declares a pictorial feature in the September issue of a popular magazine.

67

"Prosperity has come to Mound Bayou in the strangest way", the article explains. "No big factory has opened to give Mound Bapou its current boom. The all-Negro town cashes in on something more vital to the 1,074,578 Negroes in Mississippi.

"Mound Bayou cashed in on Jim Crow. With less than 900 hospital beds available for Negroes in the Delta state," the article continues, "the little town opened a modern, well-equipped hospital and became a Negro medical center."

Sponsored by the Knights and Daughters of Tabor and led by militant young Dr. T. R. Howard, Taborian hospital has brought direly needed medical care to Negroes for hundreds of miles around the now thriving little town.

"Mut Doctor Howard has also converted Mound Bayou from a ramshackle community into a model town." the article adds.

In addition to a clinic and an economical hospital plan, Mound Bapou now has modern housing projects, scientific farming and livestock breeding and care, and recreational facilities which include the only zoo and swimming pool for Negroes in the entire state.

202

Women Play Big Part in Mound Bayou

The Tribune

Washington, D.C.

Two women play an especially active and important part in the remarkable development of the all-Negro town of Mound Bayou. The two who are greatly instrumental in the community's rise from a ramshackle settlement to a modern are Mrs. T. R. M. Howard, wife of the local hospital's chief surgeon, and Mrs. C. L. Keys, successful merchant and council woman.

Sat. 11-2-46

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Mrs. Keys, only woman member of the town council, is one of the most astute business managers in the all-Negro community. Her sound business practises are largely credited for the town's ability to balance its budget every year. Civic improvements, too, are financed on a pay-as-you-go basis.

Mrs. Howard operates the newly-opened Green Parrot Inn in Mound Bayou's new Goodwill Park. Developed at a cost of $440,000 the park offers a dancing pavillion and the only zoo and swimming pool for Negroes in the entire state of Mississippi.

Fight Delinquency

Planned to fight the juvenile delinquency bred in Mound Bayou's many juke joints, under Mrs. Howard's supervision the Green Parrot provides local youngsters with clean and respectable recreation. Although a few juke joints remain, the atmosphere in each is improved and most of the teen-agers are now regular customers of the Green Parrot.

MOUND BAYOU IN 59th ANNUAL FOUNDERS DAY

Friday

Plaindealer

Mound Bayou, Miss. (ANP) — For the 59th time last week, the citizens of Mound Bayou paid tribute to Isaac T. Montgomery, Benjamin T. Green and pioneer citizens who founded Mound Bayou.

67

The town has taken on new life. There is not a vacant building of any kind. New structures are going up as fast as material can be obtained. The people of the city have made up their minds that if they have to raise themselves by their own bootstraps, they will do it; that no outside opposition will ever be able to hold them down.

Guest speaker for the occasion was Carl R. Johnson, of Kansas City, Mo. He is a World War I veteran and a member of the legal staff of the NAACP. 11-2-46

Johnson was introduced by Mayor B. A. Green, who said in part: "The Negro attorney in the past and now has played such an important part in protecting the rights and privileges of Negroes in America, that the founders' day committee felt it would be interesting and stimulating to have a Negro attorney who has fought in the highest court of the land, for the rights of his people, address you on this notable occasion. It is most gratifying to us to know that we have in our own group men of intelligence, courage and character; men who cannot be fooled, who cannot be bluffed and who cannot be bought. Atty. Carl R. Johnson is one of that group." 8-2-46

Instead of glorifying two or three men and women for the accomplishments of Mound Bayou, the speaker treated Mound Bayou as a whole and praised not only the founders, I. T. Montgomery and B. T. Green, but all who had a hand in founding and developing the town. He told of the struggles which the Negro lawyer has had in presenting the cause of the Negro before the courts of the land and that out of the 24 cases that have been carried to the supreme court of the United States, 22 have been won and only two lost. He stressed the growing need for the Negro to prepare himself for the opportunities which are being created for him. Saturday

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Mound Bayou's Harvard grad mayor reelected unopposed

(67)

The Tribune
Los Angeles, Calif.
Sat. 12-28-46

MOUND BAYOU, Miss.—Harvard Law school graduate B. A. Grees, longtime mayor of Mississippi's only all-Negro township, was re-elected mayor of Mound Bayou last week, unopposed.

Rumors of an opposition candidate furnished by a group of young veterans did not materialize. Elected to the Board of Aldermen at the same time were J. R. Huddleston, B. L. Keyes, R. W. Jones, Ezell Anderson, and Abe Riddle.

Mound Bayou In 59th Annual Founders Day

Black Dispatch
Oklahoma City, Okla

MOUND BAYOU, Miss. — (ANP) — For the 59th time last week, the citizens of Mound Bayou paid tribute to Isaac T. Montgomery, Benjamin T. Green and pioneer citizens who founded Mound Bayou. Sat 8-10-46

The town has taken on new life. There is not a vacant building of any kind. New structures are going up as fast as material can be obtained. The people of the city have made up their minds that if they have to raise themselves by their own bootstraps, they will do it; that no outside opposition will ever be able to hold them down.

Guest speaker the occasion was Carl R. Johnson, of Kansas City, Mo. He is a world War I veteran and a member of the legal staff of the NAACP.

Johnson was introduced by Mayor B. A. Green, who said in part:

"The Negro attorney in the past and now has played such an important part in protecting the rights and privileges of Negroes in America, that the founders day committee felt it would be interesting and stimulating to have a Negro attorney who has fought in the highest court of the land, for the rights of his people, address you on this notable occasion. It is most gratifying to us to know that we have in our own group men of intelligence, courage and character; men who cannot be fooled, who cannot be bluffed and who cannot be bought. Atty. Carl R. Johnson is one of that group."

Instead of glorifying two or three men and women for the accomplishments of Mound Bayou, the speaker treated Mound Bayou as a whole and praised not only the founders, I. T. Montgomery and B. T. Green, but all who had a hand in founding and developing the town. He told of the struggles which the Negro lawyer has had in presenting the cause of the Negro before to the supreme court of the United States, 22 have been won and only two lost. He stressed the growing need for the Negro to prepare himself for the opportunities which are being created for him.

Mound Bayou Holds 59th Annual Founders Day Celebration

World Memphis Tenn

Friday 7-26-46

MOUND BAYOU, MISS— For the 59th time, the citizens of Mound Bayou paid tribute to I, T. Montgomery and Benjamin T. Green and Pioneer citizens who founded Mound Bayou last week. 7-26-46

The town has taken on new life There is not a vacant building of any kind; new structures are going up as fast as material can be obtained. The people of Mound Bayou have made up their minds that if they have to raise themselves by their own boot straps, they will do it; that no outside opposition will ever be able to hold them down. 7-26-46 Friday

The guest speaker for the occasion was the honorable Carl R. Johnson, Attorney At Law, of Kansas City, Missouri. Mr. Johnosn is a Negro Attorney, a World War 1 Veteran, a member of the legal staff of the N. A. A. C. P. 67

He was introduced by Major B. A. Green, who said in part: "The Negro Attorney in the past and now has played such an important part in protecting the rights and privileges of Negroes in America, that the Founders Day Committee felt it would 7-26-46 be interesting and stimulating to have a Negro Attorney who has fought in the highest Court World of the land and for the rights of his people, address you on this notable occasion. It is most gratifying to us to know that we have in our own group, men of intelligence courage and character men who cannt be fooled, who cannot be bluffed and who cannot be bought. Attorney Carl R. Johnson is one of that group." Memphis Tenn Friday

Attorney Johnson delivered one of the most constructive addresses ever to have been heard in Mound Bayou. It was an unusual Founders Day Address. Instead of glorifying two or three men and women for the accomplishments of Mound Bayou, he treated Mound Bayou as a whole, and praised not only the founders, I. T. Montgomery and B. T. Green, but all who had a hand in founding and developing the town. World 67

He told very interestingly of the struggles which the Negro Lawyers has had in presenting the cause of the Negro before the courts of the land, and that out of the 24 cases which have been carried to the Supreme Court of the United States, 22 had been won and only two lost. He stressed the growing need for the Negro to prepare himself for the opportunities which are being created for him. 7-26-46 Memphis Tenn

It is the opinion of all who were present ,that the 59th Annual Founders Day Celebration was one of the most successful, interesting and constructive ever held.

He's Doing Something About the Race Problem

Saturday Evening Post - February 23, 1946

By HODDING CARTER

It's only a sleepy cotton town down in the Delta. But travelers can't believe their eyes when they see how it's changing—all because a Negro surgeon decided to do his missionary work at home.

A FEW years ago the Memphis-bound autoists of the Yazoo-Mississippi Delta barely slowed down as they drove along Highway 61 through Mound Bayou, Mississippi. There wasn't much about Mound Bayou to make anyone slow down, not even a warning road sign. If the traveler happened to be a pretty well-informed Mississippian he knew that the straggling little town was an all-Negro settlement, the only incorporated all-Negro community in the Mississippi Valley. The minority who kept up with such matters might know that Mound Bayou had been founded by a body servant of Jefferson Davis, and that Ben Green, its mayor of long duration, was a Harvard Law School graduate, a practicing attorney who served in France on the staff of the Adjutant General in World War I.

One could pick out a handful of presentable homes, a scattered and threadbare-looking business and residential section intermixed along the dusty dirt and gravel roads bisecting the highway, three or four nice-looking brick churches, and, two blocks off the highway, a school that, for a Negro building, looked right good. But most everyone would agree Mound Bayou wasn't anything to write home about. To the average traveler, hastening toward Memphis 100 miles to the north, or south along the Mississippi River to Greenville or Vicksburg or Natchez, Mound Bayou was just another sleepy little cotton town of maybe 1200 population, and superficially no different from a hundred others in the cotton belt.

But four years ago folks began to slow down when they drove through. And now a lot of the drivers on 61 find themselves coming to an amazed full stop. The reason they took a second look four years ago was the new, red-brick Taborian Hospital bordering the east side of the highway, financed, designed, built, staffed and used entirely by Negroes. A great many Mississippians couldn't believe their eyes when they saw Taborian, which represents the come-true dream of P. M. Smith, a middle-aged Negro with a patient, sensitive face and the ability to make his people trust him.

And the reason for today's full stop is the civic facial surgery which Taborian's chief surgeon, Dr. T. R. M. Howard, has been performing. New buildings, new shrubbery, fresh paint. The beginning of a zoo. Better homes, definitely up a step on the social and economic ladder. A substitute for jook joints. A tennis court. There is a playground for children, an open-air dance pavilion, and most unusual of all in the Deep South, a swimming pool—the first and only Negro swimming pool in Mississippi. These are part of Mound Bayou's new recreation center, called Goodwill Park.

South of the park stands a little group of new concrete-block bungalows. They are small but significant—the first modern homes ever available to Mound Bayou renters. There are other improvements, among them Doctor Howard's trim white-frame clinic, where patients often are given vegetable seeds along with medical advice, and urged to try modern farming ideas that are used by Howard himself.

The Negro surgeon has still other aspirations for his town. He plans a theater, and if Mound Bayou becomes what he hopes, there will be need for a hotel.

Goodwill Park includes a restaurant and barbecue pits, far nicer than anything Mound Bayou was accustomed to. That will make money for its builder, and so will the bungalows. So does the farm where Howard raises registered Holstein and Jersey dairy cattle, thoroughbred hogs and 1000 White Plymouth Rock chickens. But there is more in this than money. Howard is a one-man uplift movement, and what he has in mind becomes clear through something he said in the spotless office of his clinic:

PHOTOGRAPHY BY WILBERT H. BLANCHE

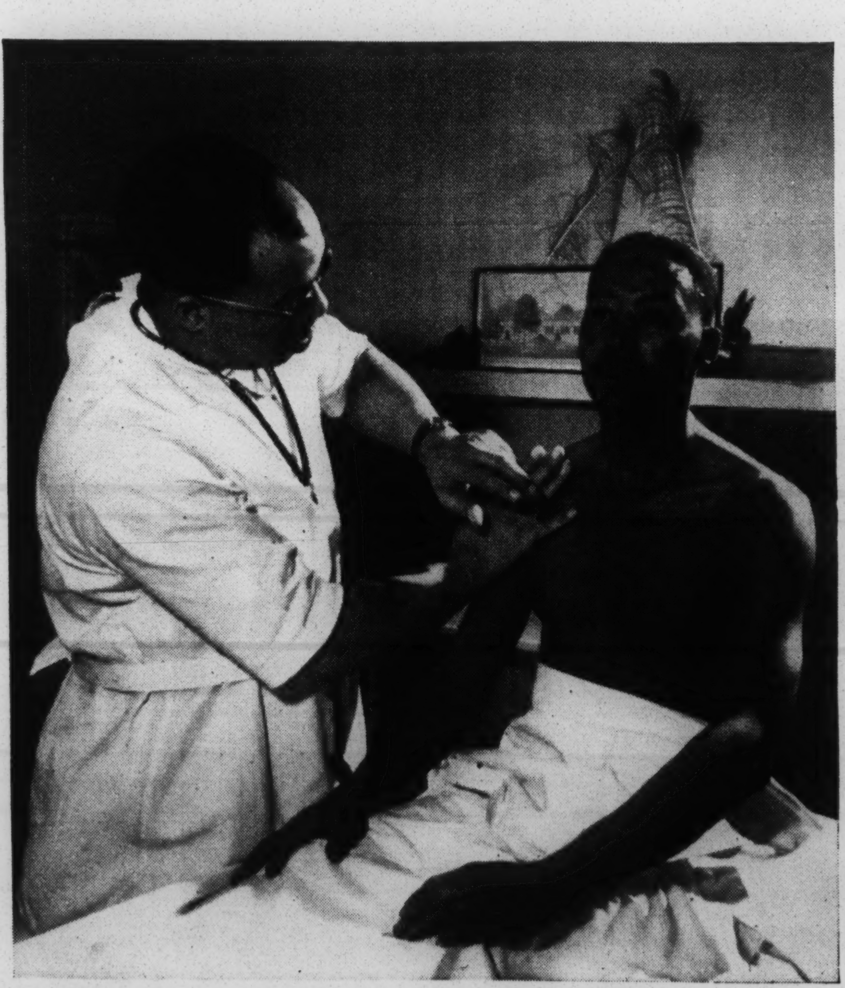
"I don't spend much time worrying about racial problems or tensions, because I'm too busy trying to do something about them. Not much speechmaking, but doing things. Not very many Mississippi white men think of coming into Taborian Hospital, but they'll look over my hogpens and buy thousands of dollars' worth of my hogs. And they can't help seeing the housing project or the park and the little children looking at the monkeys. It doesn't matter to me whether it's in the operating room, in the hog lot or in the monkey pen—just so it helps me to put a capital *N* on the word Negro. And I think that the Negro who is fortunate enough to be able to do something about racial animosity should do it, instead of adding to it—and instead of putting all the blame on the white man."

This one-color town, created to be a haven from the race problem, was born in a swamp, in steamy cypress lowlands which had one advantage: nobody else wanted them. The idea dates back to the early 80's.

What is now the Yazoo and Mississippi Valley Railroad had completed its river-paralleling New Orleans-to-Memphis line. Along the right of way through the alluvial Delta lay a wilderness of undrained land, fever-ridden yet potentially rich. It was believed the Negro was better able to survive yellow fever, malaria, "swamp air" and heat. So the railroad decided this wilderness could best be exploited by the Negro.

The railroad got in touch with Isaiah T. Montgomery, of Vicksburg, who had been a house slave of Jefferson Davis in Natchez. Montgomery, a self-educated, dignified Negro with a large personal following, was impressed with the idea of an all-Negro colony. Selecting a site for the town, he enlisted a young cousin, Benjamin T. Green, to join him in sponsoring the colony.

By 1887, a hundred black settlers were clearing the forest and building cabins. And the little all-Negro town has lasted through good cotton years and bad, surviving and overcoming the one-time forthright animosity of the near-by small white towns, and a fire which all but wiped it off the map.



A white physician helped Doctor Howard get his medical education. He has held every hospital job, from dish-washer up.

HOWARD
CLINIC

For a million Mississippi Negroes there are something less than 1000 hospital beds, so the trim, modern plant that was built by the Taborians is an oasis in a medical desert.

File: 67

1946

Mound Bayou Erects New Models In Community Health

Hospitalization
Washington Tribune

Good will courts, Mound Bayou's first modern housing project, now under construction. The eight units in the project will have modern plumbing and electricity.

67

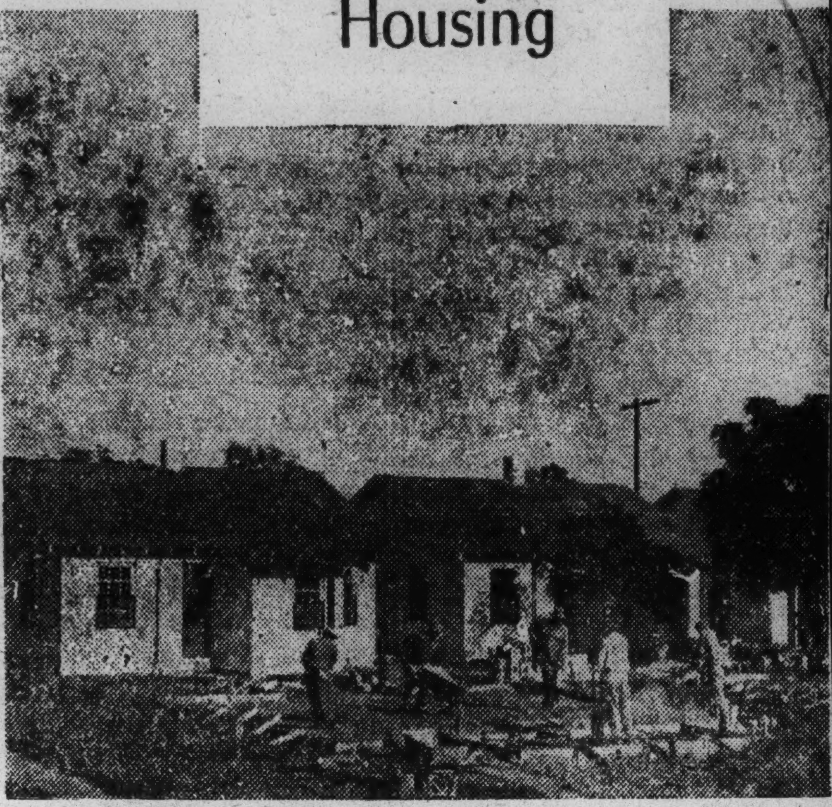
And it was Dr. Howard's aim that Mound Bayou, "should take the lead in all good movements to raise the standards and make conditions better for the colored people in the Mississippi Delta."

Today in Mound Bayou, the juke joints are still there, but their trade has been seriously affected by the Green Parrot's Inn, a clean, modern restaurant, and by an open-air dance pavilion.

The old houses are still there, too, but under construction are new ones—small, modern homes with plumbing and electricity. These units form Good Will Courts, a housing project.

It was formally opened in June, 1945. His wife opened the Green Parrot Inn, adjoining the park, where food is served by uniformed waitresse.

The youngsters and adults dance on the pavilion where the only semblance to the juke joints is the juke box.



Dr. T. R. M. Howard, chief surgeon at Taborian Hospital, operates. He performed 1,200 major operations last year. Four physicians and seven graduate nurses are on the staff.

The park was constructed at a cost of nearly $40,000. Support came from both colored and white people in Bolivar and surrounding counties.

Sunday crowds converge on Mound Bayou to enjoy the recreation that only this Mississipp town affords.

White children come to see the six monkeys and hear the talking parrot in the zoo, and to play.

Dr. Howard took on the job last year of building the housing project. The eight houses are laid out on a community plan so that each family may enjoy a type of co-operative living.

Next on Dr. Howard's list will be a hotel and an auditorium, for the surgeon expects the town's population to increase by 5,000 in the next year.

He has purchased Good Will Westacres, 320 acres of fertile land. The property was the original Isaiah T. Montgomery farm. Mr. Montgomery. a body servant of Jefferson Davis, Confederate president, founded the town in 1887.

Aside from his work at the hospital and his clinic. Dr. Howard is a hog, chicken and dairy farmer. Recently he purchased one of the finest herd of Angus cattle in the South, valued at $25,000. 5-14-46

Will Set Example

He already had Holstein and Guernsey cows. He has a $500 boar and Poland China hogs; 1000 white Plymouth Rock chickens, and five registered Tennessee walking horses.

It's no small accomplishment to turn a small, run-down Mississippi Delta town into an enterprising, forward - looking one—but it's being done in Mound Bayou, Miss., one of the towns in the United States. Take a look at the pictures above of the modern hospital, the swimming pool and the small housing project under construction Here you will see the beginning of the end of the three of the town's major problems: housing: recreation and hospitalization.

Moreover, you will see what is possible throughout the South in colored communities.

Dr. Theodore R. M. Howard was "imported" from Nashville. Tenn.. four years ago to head the staff of the Taborian Hospital, a new plant erected at a cost of $100,000 by the Sir Knights and Daughters of Tabor. The plan for the hospital was presented to the Tabor organization by P. M. Smith. who is grand mentor. But Mound Bayou got far more than it bargained for. Dr. Howard came not only as a chief surgeon of the hospital, but as one who was interested in the improvement and growth of the community.

Five years ago, Mound Bayou was physically run down—juke joints, down-at-the-heel houses, no play areas for children and no hospital facilities.

Dr. Howard saw that the Taborian Hospital was not enough for healthful living for the people of Mound Bayou. Proper housing and recreation are as important.

Park Cost **$40,000**

The park was his first venture.

Washington, D.C.
Recreation

Swimming pool in Good Will Park, Mound Bayou. The park also has an aquarium, a zoo, botanical gardens, tennis courts and play areas for children.

Within a 71-mile radius of the town live 300,000 colored people, constituting the most densely populated colored belt in the world. Mississippi itself has a 49 per cent colored population.

Dr. T. M. Howard

The children now play in Good Will Park where there are tennis courts an acquarium, a zoo, a swimming pool (the only one for colored in the State), a botanical garden, swings. seesaws and sand piles.

This, the young surgeon believes, will set an example in good farming for Mississippians who too long have passed up the chance of raising chickens ,cows and hogs and marketing them.

His garden, meat and poultry supply the inn with fresh vegetables and meat.

Dr. Howard was born 34 years ago in Murray, Ky. He was medical director at Riverside Sanitarium and a visiting surgeon at George W. Hubbard Hospital. both in Nashville, Tenn., when he was offered the job as head of the Taborian Hospital.

He received his bachelor's degree from Union College in Lincoln. Nebraska; his medical degree from the College of Medical Evangelists, Los Angeles, Calif., and did post-graduate work at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn.

Mrs. T. M. Howard

He and his wife live on the second floor of the old Montgomery home. The hospital laundry is on the first floor and the nurses' quarters are on the third floor. The hospital board of management purchased the Montgomery building for $30,000. 5-14-46

Taborian Hospital has an 86-bed capacity; two operating rooms, X-ray room, laboratory, sterlizer room, private and semi private rooms, and general wards for male and femal patients.

Four doctors, seven graduat nurses and several orderlie are on the staff.

Last year. Dr. Howard performed 1200 operations — almost four a day. In addition t his hospital duties, he operate a clinic which is open on Sun day and three other days eac week.

Faith in Mississippi

The surgeon says, "I have ab solute faith in Mississippi an want the colored youth o Mississippi to see the gree pastures of opportunity . righ here in Mississippi.

"Many things are not as the should be here, but I know no place in all the world whe everything is just as it shou be. 5-14-46

"We need better schools wit better equipment, along wit better trained teachers. W need better housing in ou plantation system. Our need are great in every field.

"The problem will be solve by working it out right he in Mississippi."

Record Enrollment

Statistics released this week Reymond O. Dickerson, registr of Wilberforce University, r veal a record enrollment for t institution.

During the current Spri quarter there are 1,286 stude of which 465 are men and 8 are women enrolled in all d partments of the institution. these 572 are residents of Oh and 714 come from 36 states, t District of Columbia and 6 fo eign countries.

Of course, good fortune a pretty girls are alike. Wh either of them smiles upon y don't wait for a formal introdu tion.

NOT TO BE PUBLISHED OR REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY
WITHOUT PERMISSION OF THE OFFICE OF DEVELOPMENT

Richmon Va. Times-Dispatch
March 18, 1947

Negro Vet Hospital Approved by Truman

54

WASHINGTON, March 17—(AP)—President Truman has approved proposed construction of a 200-bed hospital at Mound Bayou, Miss., for Negro war veterans, the Veterans Administration said today.

The Mound Bayou hospital will be staffed entirely by Negroes and will serve Negro veterans of World War II, VA said. The site is in the center of the delta section, home of 31,000 Negro veterans.

Mound Bayou Negroes Prepare For Armistice

The News Birmingham Ala.

MOUND BAYOU, Miss., Aug. 30—(AP)—This All-Negro town in the Mississippi Delta is unfurling the patriotic colors for its greatest Armistice Day observance next Nov. 11.

54

As the highlight of an all-day celebration, the town's 1,500 residents will take part in dedication of memorial chimes honoring Mound Bayou veterans of both World Wars, and unveiling a bronze tablet bearing the names of the soldiers. Sun. 8-31-47

Mayor Benjamin A. Green, chairman of the committee on arrangements and himself a war veteran, said there are about 350 names on the list, all Negroes of Mound Bayou. About 100 are deceased.

Mound Bayou Has New Version Of "Town Crier"

Memphis World Tenn.

54

Mound Bayou Missisippi's al Negro town has another claim to fame .It has a streamlined version of the old town crier. Robert Lee Thomas, the town's photographer is the announcer and person most responsible for the installation.

Friday 10-17-47

The announcer does not stroll the streets carrying a bell like the old carries, instead he has a loud speaker and chimes on top of the three story Mound Bayou Consolidated School building, the tallest building in the town. Each morning at 6 o'clock, Mound Bayou is awakened by sweet music from the chimes followed by the news of the day.

Musical Chimes Are 'Town Crier'

Sat. 11-1[illegible] 47

54

All.

Defender, Chicago, Ill.

At Mound Bayou

MOUND BAYOU, Miss.— This musically conscious town, the site of a new four million dollar veterans hospital, has added to itself a new distinction with a modern, stream-lined version of the old town crier, in the form of memorial chimes atop the high school building. 11-1-47

Each morning at six, the chimes sound and four amplifiers send the music throughout an area with a three-mile radius. The sound is followed by a news broadcast, with Robert Lee Thomas, photographer, as announcer.

A benefit for the chimes and for a bronze tablet memorial has been announced by Thomas and will be held in the high school auditorium Sunday, Nov. 16. It will be the town's annual Music and Choir Day Contest. Awards will be made for the best choirs and choruses, best quartets and best soloists.

Signs Of The Times

Chicago Defender

54

JOHN RANKIN'S DEFEAT for Bilbo's senate seat was another link in democracy's chain. Senators, refusing to be quoted, are frankly tickled. The rightish Washington Times-Herald said: "A trio of other winners in this contest, we'd say, were Mississippi, the U.S. Senate, and the U.S." Liberal Post said: "Congratulations. Mr. Rankin in our opinion honestly believes what Mr. Bilbo merely pretended to believe . . . difference between a demagogue and a fanatic." Middle-of-the-road Star: "Most gratifying (but) one would like to conclude that the voters of Mississippi have seen the light, that they can no longer be taken in by the old familiar refrains. Unfortunately the facts will not support such a conclusion." 11-15-47

Chicago Ill.

Nobody can quite understand how the all-Negro town of Mound Bayou gave Bilbo's lawyer 35 votes and the winner Stennis only four. But there's a good reason any colored newsman in that area can ascertain, and it wasn't sense of humor over the lawyer's campaign statement that he wanted to lead everywhere but in Mound Bayou.

54

Negro Mayor Urges Group To Develop Economically

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BY ROBERT E. JOHNSON
Atlanta Daily World Staff Writer

The Honorable Benjamin A. Green, mayor of an all-Negro Mississippi town, urged Negro businessmen Thursday night to ~~build their~~ enterprises upon sound business practices and operate them in such a manner that they will attract patrons of all groups.

urged

Speaking without a manuscript, the ~~Mound Bayou~~ chief executive traced the progress of the 65-year-old town before members and friends of the Atlanta Business and Trade Association at a $2-per-plate dinner in the Boys building of the Butler Street YMCA. P. 1

Attorney A. T. Walden, who served in the Army with Mayor Green in France during the First World War, served as toastmaster at the businessmen banquet.

The Harvard University-trained lawyer, swept into office back in 1920, described Mound Bayou (population 3,500) as an agricultural tract where "cotten is still 'King Cotton.'"

He said this Delta "black belt" boasts the best cotton gin in their county of 35 incorporated townships. Atlanta, Ga.

"We're sandwiched in between several white towns, Mound Bayou attracts business from these areas because our cotton gins and equipment are Superior," Mayor Green asserted.

He told the businessmen that "we don't ask for patronage because we are colored. Our business enterprises do not compete on a color basis."

The mayor added:

"We can't afford to build a Chinese wall around Mound Bayou. We believe that all avenues should be open to all persons, and we welcome tourists who will assuredly get their money's worth in our town.

"We enlist patrons from the general population in our area — and there's no place where Negroes can't go," the mayor added, drawing a chuckle from his audience.

The mayor said the town's only high school compares with the best in the county and "is setting the pace for other towns." Many religious demonstrations are established in Mound Bayou and "work in harmony and void of fear of each other," he continued.

He said the crime rate in the town is so small until it is economically hazardous to operate a jail. He said the "jailess town" uses a fee system of fines for the few cases brought to trial.

Mayor Green said the town's greatest asset is "our desire and willingness to work in peace and harmony with others in neighboring communities."

"We have learned that all whites are not bad and all Negroes are not good," the mayor said.

Turning to the question of potentials of his town, Mayor Green said much progress has been made and told the Atlanta businessmen they would do well to visit the town and invest capital in some new business enterprises.

Short talks were made by J. L. Wolfe, president of Atlanta Business League; J. E. Jordan, Auburn Ave. businessman; C. A. Scott, editor Atlanta Daily World; A. K. Knight, WERD program director; Mrs. Ada McDay, mortician; Mrs. W. A. Scott, Sr., mother of the founder of the World; H. S. Murphy, president of the Business and Trade Association; and W. A. Darby, association membership chairman.

Fred Waring In Benefit Concert For Harlem 'Y'

NEW YORK— Fred Waring and his entire company of Pennsylvanians, with Frank Davis, the Zavier university baritone as guest artist will appear at Lewishon stadium Monday, June 16 at 8:15 p. m. Defender

The occasion is a benefit affair for the Harlem branch of the YMCA of which baseball star Jackie Robinson is chairman. Jackie and co-chairman Channing Tobias are heading a group to raise several thousand dollars for the Harlem "Y." Mr. Waring is bringing Davis to the benefit at his own expense.

What is also important about the June 16th concert is that in addition to witnessing a million dollar show, ticketholders will be making a real contribution to the work of the Harlem Branch YMCA which, for more than 50 years, has served well this community, and in serving it, has served the best interest in the City as a whole.

All Negro City Council To Hold Initial Meeting

P. 3

MOUND BAYOU, MISS. (ANP) Plans have been completed for the initial meeting of Mississippi Regional Council of Negro Leadership Delta Area, to be held in this all-Negro city May 2, the council's executive board announced.

50

Some 3,000 persons are expected to attend sessions of the council which was formed last December, at a meeting in Cleveland, Miss. Business discussions will be on the agend for the morning sessions, and an address by an outstanding Negro leader will feature the afternoon meetijg. Both sessions will convene in a large tent erected for the occasion.

Jnl. 4-26-52

Purpose of the coucil is to guide th race in its civil responsibilities regarding health, education, religion, registration and voting, law enforcement, tax paying, the preservation of property, the value of saving and to lead the group to become better citizens.

The organization implements its program through some 18 major committees.

Negro Mayor Urges Group To Develop Economically

BY ROBERT E. JOHNSON
Atlanta Daily World Staff Writer 50

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If We Could Stand Together

(From The Louisiana Weekly

The citizens of Mound Bayou, Mississippi last week proved to the rest of the South and to the world that the Negro race could stand together.

50

It has long ~~been said of the~~ race, that the reason for its plight has been the lack of cooperating together (and in more cases than one it has been proven true) but here in this small town, which incidentally has a Negro mayor, the Negro people resolved, "Don't buy gas where you can't use the rest room."

Advocate

This resolution, though not entirely based on a discriminatory basis, has brought out the fact that Negroes, when called upon, can go along together and fight for those things that are benefitting to them.

Pt4

It is true, that a lot of times, the Negro is accused of not being able to cooperate with his own race, but that has been because he was being mislead by the old adage, "I've got mine, it's up to you to get yours," but we are fast awakening to the fact that "unity is strength."

Jackson

Miss

Realizing that this is true, for the first time since the three major political groups here in our city, namely the People Defense League, the Crescent City Independent Voters League and the Orleans Parish Progressive League, has been organized, we find them uniting for the coming presidential election.

The rebirth of Negroes cooperating here in the South may prove to be of vast significance not only to the Negro and to the South but to the nation as a whole.

In all probability, after noticing the progress these three groups are making since cooperating with each other, similar groups and businesses will follow the same pattern.

Dat: 10-18-52

New Orleans is the home of some 16 or more insurance companies and yet we find that there are no Negro owned banks, department stores or housing developments where the combined resources of these businesses would work for the good of the community.

In the city of Memphis recently, cooperation among Negros was shown in the construction of a housing development costing several million dollars.

Though the situation in our city of New Orleans is far below the standards of even some of the smaller towns, we are struggling to make advances in this direction.

It would be a great stride if the whole South would pattern their policies after those of Mound Bayou, Memphis and similar outstanding cities. Not only in the case of gas stations and housing developments, but everything that needs cooperative action.

Governor Will Address All-Negro Town Celebration

MOUND BAYOU, Miss. (Special) — More than 5,000 persons are expected to attend the eleventh annual celebration of the Taborian Hospital at Mound Bayou, February 12.

Gov. Hugh White will address the group at 2 p. m. Dr. J. H. White will address the morning session at 10:30.

will be the first time in the history of the state of Mississippi that a Governor has visited the all-Negro town of Mound Bayou. 2-9-53

Mayor B. A. Green announced this week that the citizens of this all-Negro community are working hard making preparation for the coming of their distinguished visitor on

The Taborian hospital, built eleven years ago by the Knights and Daughters of Tabor, a Negro fraternal organization composed of more than 27,000 members, mostly low income people, who put their nickels and dimes together and built a 42-bed hospital in Mound Bayou on Highway 61.

Each year since that time on February 12 they have invited both Negro and white leaders to address them on the celebration of the opening of their hospital. 50

Others who will appear on the program are: W. L. Beard, president of Washington County Farm Bureau; Walter Sillers, Speaker of the Mississippi House of Representatives; W. E. S. Jack, superintendent of Arcola schools, and member of the State Fish and Game Commission; the Rev. H. H. Humes, president of the General State Baptist Convention of Mississippi, editor of the Delta Leader; Mayor B. A. Green of Mound Bayou and P. M. Smith, chief grand mentor of the Knights and Daughters of Tabor.

The one-day meeting will open at 9 a. m.

Story Of State's Struggle During Civil War Recalled As Gov. Visits Mound Bayou

By KEITH FULLER

MOUND BAYOU, Miss. (AP)—Gov. Hugh White arrived here today for a civic ceremony and became the first chief executive in Mississippi history to visit the all - Negro town established by a man who once helped deprive his people of the right to vote. 50

The Governor is guest of honor here in the town that Isaiah T. Montgomery established — the same Montgomery, who as a Negro delegate to the state constitutional convention of 1890 fought to restrict Negro voting because he felt his people were not yet equipped for citizenship.

White came here to speak to the population about the state's proposed education equalization program — a program designed to give Mississippi Negroes equal educational opportunities with the whites. P. 16 Jackson

His 2 p. m. (CST) address is the climax of a day-long celebration commemorating the 11th anniversary of Taborian Hospital here, a Negro institution, staffed entirely by Negroes.

Mound Bayou is a town of 1328 persons in the heart of the Mississippi Delta, Bolivar County, and one of but few incorporated all-Negro communities in the nation. Its history is unique because of the unusual man who founded it.

Many white men today tell the story of how Montgomery, once a body servant of Jefferson Davis' brother, Joseph Davis, helped prevent members of his race from voting by taking a bold stand on the issue in the explosive constitutional convention of 1890. 2-12-53

His stand was so improbable because he, like the other Negroes, had only recently been freed from slavery and yet he sided with the Confederate whites in wanting the vote restricted to educated people.

The story is not too well known but pioneers like State Tax Commission Chairman Alf Stone and others recall it vividly.

The year 1890 found Montgomery living in Mound Bayou, the town he established, a wealthy Negro "tall, muscular and a man of few words."

The Reconstruction and Carpetbag days were coming to an end and Union troops were gone. Prostrate Mississippi called a constitutional convention hoping to re-establish an order that would put white Confederates back in control of the state government.

State Sen. W. B. Roberts once wrote, "I do not believe it is possible for any one . . . to fully grasp the courage of this quiet, unassuming man of the Negro race who boldly advocated restriction of the right of suffrage in the interest of the future development of his race."

Roberts said Montgomery "never held public office or public position that yielded him an income and history probably will be silent about his life but to my mind he was the outstanding hero of his race."

As the convention met, the Republican administration in Washington had pending legislation for rigid supervision of Southern elections.

That meant the white Southerners had to find a legal way to regain control of the state.

They accomplished this end with the help of Montgomery by adopting a framework of government which set up educational requirements for voters that almost no Negro could meet at that time.

Many credit Montgomery with the success of that move.

Not until recent years have Negroes voted in numbers in Mississippi.

But the picture is changed today and the Governor of Mississippi will tell the more than 5,000 guests today that the day of Negro progress is just beginning.

His speech will laud past accomplishments and point to the proposed equalization of educational facilities, teachers' salaries, transportation and curricula as the Negro hope of the future in this deep South state.

"The Taborian Hospital with its entire staff of medical specialists, nurses and technicians, members of the Negro race, is an example of what can be done through education," the Governor said.

The Governor was accompanied here by Lt. Gov. Carroll Gartin and Delta leaders.

The hospital he visited was built 11 years ago by a Negro fraternal organization composed mostly of low income people who put their nickels and dimes together to build the 42-bed medical structure.

WHITE TELLS NEGROES EQUAL FACILITIES NEAR

Commercial Appeal

Governor Talks At Mound Bayou, Bringing New High In Racial Harmony

2-13-53

By KENNETH TOLER
Staff Writer 50

MOUND BAYOU, Miss., Feb. 12.—History and a new high in racial harmony were charted in this Deep South region Thursday when the state's Democratic governor spoke in this all-Negro town on Republican Abe Lincoln's birthday. 50

Gov. Hugh White's appearance marked the first address of record by a chief executive of the state in this Negro governed and populated Bolivar County town in its 65 years' existence.

Gives Assurances

He spoke at the annual meeting of the Knights and Daughters of Tabor, a Negro fraternal order which operates a hospital here. P. 1

He gave Mississippi's large Negro population assurance of emancipation from the long-existent educational inequalities.

"I hope and believe the program we have in mind will equalize all facilities," Governor White said. "After enactment of the program, salaries and transportation will be immediately equalized." Memphis

As to equalization of facilities, the Governor said under the program that better than 50 percent of buildings necessary to equalization will be completed in five years."

"I know you would rather wait a little while on that decision knowing there sits in the Governor's office a man whose heart and soul is in keeping with the need and necessity of working out this program for the colored people of the state," he said. "I say, have faith in your Governor. I'm vitally interested in your welfare. I want to see you progress and have better conditions."

Other Leaders Speak

Telling the throng at Mound Bayou High School Auditorium "I talk to you as a father to his children," Governor White reminded the Negroes that "you have a tremendous responsibility in helping work out the problems of your race."

"I want you to know your leaders are perfectly welcome to come sit with the Governor and ask his help when they come as citizens of Mississippi interested in the welfare of both the white and black races and who hope and pray nothing will ever come between them in the state of Mississippi," Governor White said.

Mayor Green, Harvard-educated mayor of this all-Negro town and first child born here after its creation, welcomed the Governor and presented him a traveling bag. Mayor Green's late father and the famed Negro Isiaah Montgomery founded this community.

Other speakers at the ceremony over which J. W. Chambers of Arcola, Negro editor of the Taborian Society's magazine, presided, included House Speaker Walter Sillers of this county, and W. L. Beard.

Negro Town Refuses To Lift Its Race Bars

Mound Bayou, Miss., Dec. 3 (AP)—A white man can't live or own property in this Delta town of 1,400 persons, and Mayor B. A. Green said today that's the way it should stay.

"We're not interested," he said, in reply to a proposal that the all-Negro town of Mound Bayou, should welcome as citizens anyone, regardless of race, creed or color.

The proposal was made by Dr. E. J. Stringer, Columbus, Miss., president of the Mississippi chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored Peoples.

All-Negro Town 'Not Interested' In Inviting Whites

MOUND BAYOU, Miss., Dec. 3 (UP)—The citizens of this all-Negro community are "not interested" in inviting white persons to move in, Mayor B. A. Green said last night. Post News

The Mound Bayou mayor made the reply to a proposal by Dr. E. J. Stringer of Columbus, a former resident of Mound Bayou.

"We are not interested in the proposition," Green said. "We're satisfied just as we are and we can't see where the town and its citizens would benefit in any way from integration."

Stringer said in a speech here that Mound Bayou will never be a truly great town until a genuine welcome mat has been put out inviting all men of good will regardless of race, creed or color, to make this their home if they so desire."

Founders' Day Held In Honor Of B. T. Green

MOUND BAYOU, MISS.—Founders Day Celebration, honoring the late B. T. Green, was observed here Sunday, July 12 at the City High School.

Hon. Perry W. Howard, Republican National Committeeman, of Washington, D. C. was the principal speaker during the Sixty-six Annual Observance.

The celebration began at 3 p. m. in the auditorium of the school and lasted until past 5:00 p. m. Many musical numbers were rendered by the various choirs and solos were sung by a number of singers.

Mayor B. A. Green, presented a token of appreciation too Mr Paul Crump of Memphis a former resident of Mound Bayou, for tre intense interest shown in the founders day program over a period of years.

More than 300 persons of other cities attended the Founders Day Celebration.

Some of the guest from Memphis attending the anniversary were Mr. William M. Warren, Mr and Mrs. Charles W. McPherson, their daughter Miss Joy W. McPherson and Mr. and Mrs. Geo. W. Christian. They were the guests of Mr and Mrs. Fred Miller and Mayor Benjamin A. Green.

Little Miss Joy McPherson, is the great granddaughter of the late B. T. Green, the founder.

Mrs. McPherson is the niece of both Mayor Green and Mr and Mrs Fred Miller.

Mr and Mrs Christian are prominent in church and social circles in Memphis. Mr. McPherson and Mr. Christian are employees in the Postal Service of Memphis.

World

p. 5

Atlanta, Ga.

July 23-53

Mr. Green's Blunder

According to an Associated Press dispatch, Benjamin A. Green, long time mayor of the all Negro town of Mound Bayou in Mississippi, said that white people are not welcome to settle in the town.

The report declares that Dr. E. J. Stringer, of Columbus, Miss., president of the state NAACP, suggested that whites be invited to settle in Mound Bayou as a gesture of goodwill.

Green is quoted as saying "we're not interested. We're getting along fine just as we are. Judging from the present status of Negroes in other towns, I fail to see how such a move would help our town."

It Mr. Green has been accurately quoted, we are shocked. Mr. Green is a well educated man, a university graduate and a lawyer

Certainly he must be aware of what is going on not only in his own state but throughout the country.

Just last week Thurgood Marshall, heading a battery of NAACP lawyers, went before the U.S. Supreme Court to argue against jim crow schools. He was joined by the Justice Department speaking officially for the federal government.

Through the south Negroes are clamoring for integration into the mainstream of American life without racial distinctions.

Mound Bayou, even though it is an all Negro town is no self sufficient island apart from the rest of the world. It is dependent upon the labor, cooperation and goodwill of whites and Negroes for its very existence like every other community from the mightiest nation to the smallest crossroads hamlet.

Mr. Green himself is a product of interracial cooperation. His education, his food, his clothing, even his home were made possible through the labor of white and black people.

It is foolish of him to think he can close the town to any decent citizen who wishes to reside there. We know that if he ventured beyond the narrow borders of the town and met with racial segregation that he would become indignant.

The responsibility for making this nation and the world a place where all men can dwell side by side without racial distinctions is not the white man's alone.

The Negro has a big responsibility for bringing about the ideal human relationship.

Evidently Mr. Green is unaware of his respnsibility in this regard. He is certainly out of step with the times and out of step with the better thinking people of all races.

Defender

Chicago, Ill.

Sat. 12-26-53

p. 11

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50 1954

MOUND BAYOU, MISSISSIPPI

240

Civil Rights To Be Studied At Negro Meeting

P. 9

MOUND BAYOU, Miss., March 7 (UP)—Some 7000 persons are expected to attend the regional Council of Negro Leadership meeting at this all-Negro community May 7, Council President T. R. M. Howard said today.

Howard said the theme for the meeting will be "civil rights." Thurgood Marshall, chief defense counsellor for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, will be principal speaker.

Mississippi Town Unsegregated

5-19-54

MOUND BAYOU, Miss., May 18 (UP).—This was one Deep South town where there was no segregation problem today as a result of the Supreme Court decision.

Mound Bayou is an all-Negro town of 1,300 population. Negro Mayor E. A. Green said: "We don't have segregation worries because there's nobody to segregate." He said townspeople "would welcome white folks to our school."

The north Mississippi Delta town has one school, attended by 1,500 Negro students from the surrounding area.

Wed. 5-19-54

Mayor Green said "there's no law" against white folks living here, adding "in fact, we had two Chinese and one white man for awhile. No one asked them here and no one asked them away. They just left of their own accord."

New York, N.Y.

New Orleans Take Note

A 'Consolidation of Effort' Needed

THE Negro citizenry of New Orleans need but to sit up and take note of the small town of Mound Bayou, Mississippi, to realize how far it is behind in the fight for a consolidation of the race in order to obtain more profound results for all mankind.

Louisiana Weekly

In just a few weeks (May 7), this small town will become the "Civil Rights" center of the country when Thurgood Marshall, Chief Defense Counsellor of the NAACP will be the principal speaker at the Annual Meeting of the Regional Council of Negro Leadership.

Sat. 4-10-54

Dr. T. R. M. Howard, president of the organization said that more than 7,000 persons are expected to attend due to the fact that the organization has extended its operations into 21 new counties during the past year.

New Orleans La.

It is noteworthy that the town of Mound Bayou is able to gather 7,000 people who are interested in the advancement of their cause and the cause of the Negro people as a whole and we here in New Orleans consider it quite an accomplishment when we are able to get 2,000 persons together when it has to do with the advancement of the race.

New Orleans Negroes are represented by three major political organizations and it is doubtful as to whether or not the three together can amass the number that Mound Bayou has on previous occasions and expects to exceed on this one.

It is pathetic to note that a town the size of Mound Bayou can create a greater interest among its citizens than can New Orleans.

P. 3 B

We are not making much progress in our attempt to better the conditions that exist here among the peoples of our race. For no known reason there seems to be a laxity on our part in cooperating together in order that we may secure our full benefits as citizens of this great city.

Surely the efforts of this small community should be an incentive to the people of New Orleans. It should cause each and every one of us to realize that "in unity there is strength' and the only way we can ever expect to take our rightful place in the community is through the consolidation of effort.

Miss. town readies for ballot showdown

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MOUND BAYOU, Miss.—Mississippi residents will be asked to raise a $100,000 fund at the third annual meeting of the Regional Council of Negro Leadership, which will be held here Friday and which is expected to attract 10,000 people.

P. 3

The request will come in the annual report of the Committee on Voting and Registration, headed by Verye Chapple of Greenville. Mr. Chapple has made a survey of voting and registration conditions in 30 counties during the past few months.

His findings show that 80 per cent of the sheriffs have refused to accept the payment of poll tax from colored citizens, while 100 per cent of the circuit clerks have refused to let them register, although they had receipts to show payment of poll tax.

To Correct Conditions

The $100,000 will be used to correct these conditions the "American way," according to Chapple, who further holds that the "American way" is to appeal to the courts for justice and civil rights.

Sat. 5-8-54

Thurgood Marshall, chief counsel of the NAACP will deliver the major address at the council meeting. He will also confer with attorneys from seven southern states.

Dr. T. R. M. Howard reports that lawyers from Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Texas, Arkansas, Tennessee and Mississippi, will hold a symposium relative to the Supreme Court decision to be handed down in the school segregation case.

No Longer a Ghost Town!

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There was a time when Mound Bayou, Miss., was called a ghost town. But, no longer. This Negro-governed and populated little city of 2,000 is on the move. The shacks are coming down and attractive homes go-up.

Courier P. 13

Mound Bayou has had its ups and downs and the town has seen some hectic and terrifying days, but now it appears to be taking its real place under the Mississippi sun.

Pittsburgh Pa

There is not much to be said about growing businesses. A new gasoline station and lunch room is in operation. The town boasts a hotel, several progressive stores and diners, three cotton gins, a post office, railroad station, two schools and no jails.

Mound Bayou is in the rich delta area and most of the residents in this thriving community live by the land . . . and there's dollars in the land, son.

This imposing estate, located on the southern boundary of Mound Bayou, Miss., is the home of progressive Dr. and Mrs. T. R. M. Howard.

A new addition to this delta town is **St. Gabriel Mission**, a Catholic church and elementary school erected on a ten-acre plot at a cost of $91,000 and headed by **Father John Bowman, S. V. D.**, of Washington, D. C. Four sisters will arrive from Baltimore in September to teach in the school. St. Gabriel, without a doubt ,will add to the cultural side of Mound Bayou.

Live-wire of this town of 2,000 is Dr. T. R. M. Howard, surgeon, businessman and planter. The home of Dr. and Mrs. Howard (she's the charming Helen Boyd of Riverside, Calif.) is the showplace of Mound Bayou.

6000 Negroes Hear Marshall In Miss.

Marshall Tells Them Mississippi Will Be Free And Will Join The Union By '63

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If there were ever any doubt concerning the Negro in the south following leadership it was dispelled May 7, when an approximate 6,000 of an anticipated 10,000 Negroes assembled in Mound Bayou, Mississippi, at the call of Dr. T. R. M. Howard.

State Press

Dr. Howard, wealthy Mississippi delta physician and surgeon, planter, businessman and sportsman, is president of the Mississippi Regional Council of Negro Leadership, and the occasion was the third annual state-wide meeting of the council.

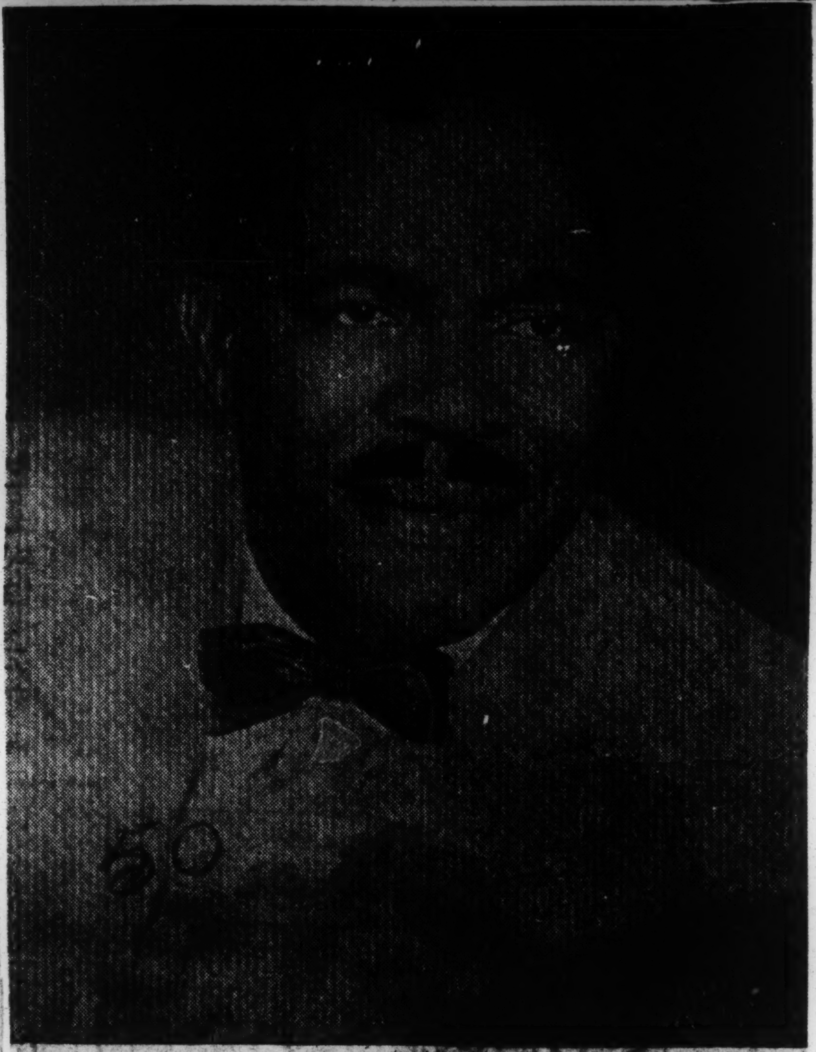
According to Dr. Howard, approach to some of the Negro quote the militant medic: ". . It represents a united action which is so much needed in Mississippi today. For years in Mississippi, we have had too many self-appointed 'Uncle Toms' selling us down the river. This has never been more apparent than during the last two years when the school situation has been the hottest issue in our state. At a time when we have needed men to stand up. At a time when Negro leaders of the state should have presented a united front, we have had a few leaders in our state who have tried with all their power, through the press and by repeated trips to the legislature and the governor to convince the world that the Negro in Mississippi is satisfied with second class citizenship, that the Negro in Mississippi is satisfied to be denied the right to pay poll tax, register and vote in sixty out of the eighty-two counties in Mississippi. That the Negro in Mississippi is satisfied to send the council represents a new problems in Mississippi. To . It represents a united front. his children to an old broken down school building with no equipment, that the Negro in Mississippi is satisfied with police brutality, that the Negro is satisfied with everything just as it is in Mississippi. My people, are we satisfied?

5-14-54

Little Rock Ark

"Occasionally, I have some of our professional people say to me, "Don't Rock The Boat." They are usually people who are satisfied with things as they are in Mississippi today. The 'boat' needs rocking here in Mississippi and the Regional Council of Negro Leadership plans to rock the boat until every one within our borders realizes what Thomas Jefferson meant when he wrote into the constitution of the United States of America that "All Men Are Created Equal."

"Here in Mississippi, as well as the rest of the south, our white brother is trying to preserve a way of life which to him is filled with history and tradition and blood spilled in the civil war. The six weeks which our legislature spent in extra session and most of the regular session was spent trying to work out ways and means of financing in Mississippi a dual system of education which is equal and adequate, is proof of the effort which is being put forth to preserve things as status quo in Mississippi. Here our southern culture comes into headon conflict with world culture. No one in all the world is concerned with the preservation of southern culture, with all the evils and tragedy of segregation and discrimination but the white people of the south . . .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DR. HOWARD

"We have not sent our stalwart, brave Negro soldiers to the ends of earth to fight, bleed and die for any separate but equal theory of democracy. We have sent our black soldiers to the ends of earth to fight, bleed and die for the same share of democracy that America gives her other citizens. . . ."

Dr. Howard was followed by Thurgood Marshall, N A A C P chief counsel, who made the principal address. Mr. Marshall gave hope to the Mississippi youngsters when he guaranteed them that they would be able to get an education in Mississippi, and it would be soon, because Mississippi school case was one case he was going to be the lawyer himself. He also told them that Mississippi would be in the union by 1963.

Arkansans participating on the Regional Council, were Dr. M. Lafayete Harris, president of Philander Smith college, and Wiley A. Branton, Pine Bluff lawyer, and candidate for Representative from Jefferson county.

The Mississippi Regional Council took out a $500 life membership in the NAACP.

MOVE MADE TO BAN 'AGITATION' GROUPS IN ALL-NEGRO TOWN

Commercial

Mound Bayou Acting Mayor Says Proposal Is Aimed At Such As NAACP

Appeal

ORDINANCE IS PLANNED

50

Regional Council Is Also Target—Leader Recently Sold Much Of His Real Estate Holdings

Thurs. 12-22-55

Special To The Commercial Appeal

MOUND BAYOU, Miss., Dec. 21.—A move to prohibit meetings of "race agitating groups" in this all-Negro Delta town was revealed Wednesday by I. E. Edwards, alderman and acting mayor.

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P. 2

The move is aimed "at such groups as the NAACP and the Regional Council of Negro Leadership," Edwards said.

The acting mayor said a proposal for an ordinance barring meetings "of any organization which has race agitation as its aim" will be made at a meeting of the five-member Board of Aldermen next month.

To Study Move Jan. 3

Edwards, who said he and Mayor B. A. Green are "agreed" that such an ordinance is needed, said aldermen will consider the question at their Jan. 3 meeting.

Memphis

Explaining the move, Edwards said, "We just don't want anybody bringing their problems to Mound Bayou. We've got enough of our own."

Tenn.

The RCNL is headed by Dr. T. R. M. Howard, who recently disposed of about $200,000 in real estate holdings here. Dr. Howard Monday night could not be reached for comment at the Statler Hotel in Los Angeles, where he is registered.

"The views of agitators holding meetings here do not represent the views of most people in Mound Bayou," Edwards said. "If somebody has a chip on their shoulder, let them carry it elsewhere."

Edwards said he had proposed an ordinance making it illegal for "agitation" groups to congregate in Mound Bayou, during a conversation several months ago with Mayor Green.

"The mayor agreed with me," Edwards said. "That was soon after a convention of the RCNL was held here."

Member Of Neither

Edwards, who said he is not a member of either the NAACP or the regional council, said most residents of Mound Bayou "aren't particularly concerned either way" about segregation "because we have no segregation problem here."

The majority of Mound Bayou's population of 1,325 "are good citizens who want to let well enough alone," Edwards said.

Mayor Green, a Harvard law graduate whose father was one of the founders of the town, is a patient at Kennedy Veterans Hospital in Memphis.

One resident here identified Dr. Howard as "the core of local sympathizers with race agitation," the Associated Press reported. The spokesman, who declined to be named, added that "things might level off here since (Dr. Howard) has left the state."

Dr. Howard, president of the National Medical Association, recently explained that "threats against my life" prompted the sale of some of his real estate holdings. He has retained properties here valued at about $100,000.

All-Negro Town Acts To Outlaw Race Agitators

Post-Herald

Thurs. 12-22-55

P. 2

MOUND BAYOU, Miss., Dec. 21 (AP)—The board of aldermen of this all-Negro town will consider proposals next month to restrict public meetings in an effort to prohibit race agitators from meeting here.

Birmingham,

Alderman and Acting Mayor I. E. Edwards told The Jackson Daily News today citizens are concerned about adverse publicity caused by outside groups meeting here.

Ala.

Various Negro organizations, including the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the Regional Council of Negro Leadership, have been using Mound Bayou as a gathering place.

Edwards said, "the best people of Mound Bayou don't want the public to get the idea our town is a trouble-making spot, and we're working toward correcting that evil."

50 1956

ROYAL OAK TOWNSHIP
DETROIT, MICHIGAN

Michigan May Have All-Negro Town One Day

Advocate 9/1

Jackson Press

Oct 24-56

Detroit, Mich., July 9—A small suburban community bordering on Detroit's outskirts may one day be Michigan's only Negro city.

Royal Oak Township with a population of approximately 12,000, is rich with the possibility of future developments.

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The Township was once a part of a 36 square mile area which has given birth to such Michigan cities as: Oak Park, Madison Heights, Ferndale, Pleasant Ridge, Hutington Woods, Berkley, Clawson, Hazel Park and Royal Oak.

[illegible] Call

The recent inception in December, 1955, of Madison Heights City has left Royal Oak Township encompassing an area between 8 Mile Road, Scotia Road Mitcheldale and the borders of Oak Park City.

Sept 24-56

The Township owns an additional 93 acres at 10 Miles and Greenfield.

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All-Negro Town May Bar Race Agitators

Courier

Sat. 1-7-56

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P. 3

Pittsburgh Pa.

MOUND BAYOU, Miss. (ANP) —Acting Mayor I. E. Edwards said the board of aldermen of the all-Negro town of Mound Bayou will consider in January ordinances barring "race agitators" from meeting here.

Edwards, acting for Mayor B. A. Green, who is ill, said many of the 1,328 citizens are concerned over adverse publicity outside organizations are bringing to Mound Bayou.

He told the rabid anti-Negro newspaper, the Jackson Daily News, that Mound Bayou was set up as an all-Negro town to test the Negro's ability to govern himself. The experiment has been "highly successful and the citizens don't want anything to upset this," Edwards said.

Several Negro organizations, including the Regional Council of Negro leadership and the NAACP, have met here this year.

"The views of these people holding meetings here do not represent the views of most people in Mound Bayou," Edwards declared.

All-Negro Mound Bayou May Bar 'Race Agitators'

Call

Fri. 1-6-56

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P. 7

Kansas City, Mo.

MOUND BAYOU, Miss. — (ANP) —Acting Mayor I. E. Edwards said the board of aldermen of the all-Negro town of Mound Bayou will consider in January ordinances barring "race agitators" from meeting here.

Edwards, acting for Mayor B. A. Green who is ill, said many of the 1,328 citizens are concerned over adverse publicity outside organizations are bringing to Mound Bayou.

"If somebody has a chip on their shoulders, let them carry it elsewhere," Edwards, an alderman and vice mayor, said.

He told the rabid anti-Negro newspaper, the Jackson Daily News, that Mound Bayou was set up as an all-Negro town to test the Negro's ability to govern himself. The experiment has been "highly successful and the citizens don't want anything to upset this," Edwards said.

Several Negro organizations, including the Regional Council of Negro Leadership and the N.A.A.C.P., have met here this year.

"The views of these people holding meetings here do not represent the views of most people in Mound Bayou," Edwards declared.

MOUND BAYOU PLANS CELEBRATION TODAY

Dr. J. H. White Speaker For 69th Birthday

POWELL IS CASTIGATED

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Memphis, Tenn.

7/12/56

P. 8

Special to The Commercial Appeal

MOUND BAYOU, Miss., July 11.—Founders of this all-Negro town in Mississippi's Delta section will be commemorated at its 69th birthday celebration Thursday.

Wreaths will be placed on the graves of the founders in ceremonies preceding a public program in the school auditorium to be addressed by Dr. J. H. White, president of Mississippi Vocational College for Negroes at Itta Bena.

The program is under direction of Vice Mayor I. E. Edwards.

Challenged Powell

Dr. White recently challenged Representative Adam Clayton Powell, Negro Democrat of New York, for his anti-segregation amendment which resulted in defeat of a bill allocating Federal aid for school buildings in the United States.

He accused the Negro representative of "destroying the key for understanding, better human relations—education."

"Whether North, East, South or West, better education makes better communities, better communities make better neighbors," Dr. White wrote the representative. "You are defeating your own purpose, because the Negro will never be able to gain the things he wishes from other people unless he has an opportunity for education."

Blocking Opportunity

"Education is important and should not be confused with politics. Do you realize how far you are carrying this amendment to satisfy your political ends? Do you realize that you are blocking the opportunity of every child in the South—Negro and white?"

Dr. White wrote Representative Powell that "our past record reflects my acceptance of the idea that sound progress is seldom revolutionary in method."

"I am a Southern Negro educator who can combine gradualism, moderation and zeal in making progress. I believe we can make fine citizens of our youth if we have the tools with which to work. We can show him that it is one thing to stand up for his rights and quite another to attempt to depose the rights of others."

Dr. White told Representative Powell that as a result of defeat of the bill with his anti-segregation amendment, "You will always get the credit for retarding more children than any man living."

At Mound Bayou—

Negroes tell editors of 'heavy pressure'

P. 38 News

Wed 10-10-56

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Birmingham, Ala.

MOUND BAYOU, Miss., Oct. 10—(AP)—Negro leaders told touring New England newspapermen their efforts for "education, voting rights and equal justice" were subjected to heavy pressure.

The leaders in this all-Negro Delta town of 1330 persons were blunt in their talks yesterday to the 18 white editors and publishers who came to Mississippi for a first-hand view on the segregation situation.

Early today, the newsmen left for Vicksburg for a tour of the National Cemetery where Union and Confederate soldiers are buried among monuments erected by most of the states represented in the Civil War.

THE NEWSPAPER MEN were to board a stern wheeler for a leisurely trip down the Mississippi River to Natchez, another phase of the tour sponsored by the State Sovereignty Commission, an organization set up by the 1956 Legislature to help keep segregation in Mississippi.

At Mound Bayou yesterday, the Rev. H. H. Hume of Greenville, president of a national Baptist association, told the newspaper men in Mound Bayou's City Hall, "There is a dual system of justice in Mississippi when it comes to the Negro."

Postmaster C. V. Thurmond said, "It is the unwritten law and unseen hand that keeps the Negroes under pressure."

C. P. HALL, commander of Mound Bayou's American Legion Post, said he felt he was "taking chances" by his stand. "Life is dear," he said, and added, "but so are other things."

Dr. E. P. Burton said, "No effort was made between whites and Negroes to work out segregation problems." He said he doesn't believe whites teach their children to hate Negroes but they "do teach them to believe the Negro is inferior."

Earlier yesterday, the group toured Mississippi Vocational College at Itta Bena in the rich agricultural Delta where the Negroes outnumber the white residents as much as five to one.

Dr. J. H. White, 53-year-old president of the state-supported Negro school, told the editors, "All I want to do is build a good school for my people and improve their economic and cultural level."

Later, he said, "One of the editors asked me personally my feelings on segregation and I told them I was interested in building an institution for my people."

He said this necessarily means "equal educational facilities."

THE TOUR was conducted during class time but authorities arranged for visitors to talk privately with some of the 603 students.

One student told an editor he had no desire "to be a white man but I want to be treated as a man."

Another editor said a Negro minister visiting on the campus told him, "The job must be done from the outside" if Negroes are to gain their full rights in Mississippi."

Neither the student nor the clergyman was identified.

The clergyman told the editor that after he had voted in a 1953 election his "house was burned, he was put in jail and his license to operate several small businesses was withdrawn."

Green Re-Elected Mayor Of Mound Bayou

Advocate

Jackson, Miss.

Mound Bayou, Miss., June 11— Mayor B. A. Green, who has served as mayor of this all Negro town for three decades, was re-attained mayor in the town's election here last Tuesday, June 4.

Sat. 6-15-57

Mayor Green defeated Mr. Isaac Peterson, a respected church man who opposed him in the election, better than 4 to 1. Mayor Green is the first born son of Mound Bayou, a steward of the Bethel A. M. E. Church, graduate of Harvard Law School, member of the Mississippi Bar Association and is loved and respected by the town people.

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MOUND BAYOU PLANS ANNIVERSARY PARTY

Commercial Appeal

All-Negro Town Founded 70 Years Ago July 12

Tues. 7-2-57

Special to The Commercial Appeal

MOUND BAYOU, Miss., July 1. —The 70th anniversary of the founding of Mound Bayou will be celebrated here July 12.

Memphis Tenn.

7.26

The oldest and largest all-Negro town in the United States, Mound Bayou was founded July 12, 1887, by Isaiah T. Montgomery and his cousin Benjamin T. Green, who were slaves of Joseph Davis and his brother, Confederate President Jefferson Davis.

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The founding anniversary is an annual event in the community, which celebrates the Negro's first attempt at self-government in the United States.

A formal program will be held at the high school auditorium, with Rev. Thomas Phillips of the Mound Bayou First Baptist Church delivering the anniversary address.

Mound Bayou Marks 70th Anniversary Of Founding

Daily World Sun. 7-7-57

Atlanta Ga.

MOUND BAYOU, Miss.— (ANP) —Friday, July 12, will mark the 70th Anniversary of the founding of Mound Bayou, Miss., the oldest and largest all Negro town in the United States by Isaiah T. Montgomery and his cousin Benjamin T. Green, both former slaves of Joseph Davis and his brother, President Jefferson Davis of the Southern Confederacy.

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To the people of Mound Bayou this date is something of a Holiday because it represents the Negro's first attempt at Self-Government in the United States and in Mississippi.

A town official stated: "We observe this day annually to keep ourselves reminded of the Challenge that comes to us to carry-on and to rededicate ourselves to a task so nobly begun by our Founding Fathers.

"A formal program will be rendered in the High School Auditorium on that night, with Rev. Thomas Phillips of the local First Baptist Church delivering the Anniversary message. People of the community are especially urged to come out to the program, and to display the American Flag at your home or place of business."

Md. Bayou Marks 70th Birthday

Defender

Chicago, Ill.

Sat. 7-20-57

MOUND BAYOU, Miss.—(ANP) Friday, July 12, marked the 70th anniversary of the founding of Mound Bayou, Miss., the oldest and largest all Negro town in the United States by Isaiah T. Montgomery and his cousin, Benjamin T. Green, both former slaves of Joseph Davis and his brother, President Jefferson Davis of the Southern Confederacy.

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To the people of Mound Bayou this date is something of a Holiday, because it represents the Negro's first attempt at self government in the United States and in Mississippi.

A town official stated: "We observe this day annually to keep ourselves reminded of the challenge that comes to us carry-on and to rededicate ourselves to a task so nobly begun by our founding Fathers.

"A formal program was held in the high school auditorium with Rev. Thomas Phillips of the local First Baptist church delivering the anniversary message.

Oldest All-Negro Town Marks 70th Anniversary of Founding

Times Picayune

7.26

Sun. 7-14-57

MOUND BAYOU, Miss., July 13 (AP)—This oldest and largest all Negro town in the United States observed its 70th anniversary Friday.

New Orleans La.

A Founders Day message by Mayor A. Ben Green, Harvard-educated attorney and son of one of the founders, said:

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"In addition to having a sincere pride in our community, the one big factor in its development has been the idea of living and moving in a wholesome and respectful atmosphere.

"In other words, we have always got along with our neighbors, without loss of face or principle, and this policy will be pursued."

Most of the town's 1,500 residents displayed American flags on the anniversary. Several hundred took part in a procession to the graves of the two founders, Benjamin T. Green, who died in 1896, and Isaih T. Montgomery, who died in 1924. Both were once slaves of Joe Davis, brother of Jefferson Davis.

Sat. 7-12-58 P. 20

Commercial Appeal

Memphis, Tenn

FOUNDERS DAY PLANNED—Making plans for the annual Founders Day observance tomorrow at Mound Bayou, Miss., are (from left) Montgomery Strong, vice mayor; A. Ben Green, mayor, and C. V. Thurman, chairman of the Founders Day Committee. They hold a portrait of Benjamin T. Green (left in portrait) and Isaiah T. Montgomery, co-founders of the town.

Mound Bayou Will Celebrate 71st Birthday

Special to The Commercial Appeal

MOUND BAYOU, Miss., July 11.—The country's largest and oldest all-Negro community will celebrate its 71st anniversary Sunday with memorial services honoring the town's founders.

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The town was settled July 12, 1887 by Benjamin T. Green and Isaiah T. Montgomery, first cousins and both former slaves of Joe Davis, brother of Jefferson Davis, president of the Confederacy.

Commercial Appeal

C. V. Thurman, postmaster and chairman of the founders day committee, said nearly all of the citizens here are expected to participate in the annual procession from the city hall to the graves of Green and Montgomery where memorial services will be held at 5 p.m.

Memphis Tenn.

Mr. Green died in 1896 and Mr. Montgomery died in 1924.

A. Ben Green, Harvard educated attorney and son of one of the founders, has been mayor for more than 38 years. Ill health may keep him from presiding at the day-long celebration.

Sat. 7-12-58

The Rev. John LaBauve, pastor of St. Gabriel's Catholic Church, will deliver the principal address at 6 p.m. Sunday in the school auditorium.

The population of Mound Bayou at present is 1,750, an increase of 250 over a year ago.

"If we had not received the co-operation of the surrounding communities we could not have accomplished what we have," Thurman said. "I think our being here is a credit to Mississippi. I feel that the state is proud of our success."

The community, located on Highway 61, boasts two schools, six churches, a hospital and at least one of almost every type of business.

Mound Bayou Celebrates Its 71st Birthday This Saturday

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Mayor Praises Friendly Cooperation Of Neighbor Towns

Mound Bayou, Miss. (Special—A procession from the mayor's office of this oldest and largest all-Negro town in the United States to the graves of the founders, former slaves of the Jefferson Davis family, will commemorate the 71st anniversary of the town, which is July 12.

7-12-58

"As proud as we are of our accomplishments for the past 71 years, we are not unmindful of the fact that the friendly and cooperative attitude of our neighboring towns has been and will continue to be an important factor in the development of our community," Mayor B. A. Green said.

Jackson Miss

He announced a memorial service will be held Sunday July 13, at the graveside of Isaiah T. Montgomery and Benjamin T. Green, both of whom were slaves of Joseph Davis and his brother —president of the Confederacy.

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Father John LaBauve, pastor of St. Gabriel's Catholic Mission, will be the guest speaker at a program in the high school auditorium Sunday night.

Sat. 7-12-58

Mound Bayou To Celebrate Its 71st Year

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Mayor Praises Cooperation Of Neighbor Towns

MOUND BAYOU, Miss. (Special)—A procession from the mayor's office of this oldest and largest all-Negro town in the United States to the graves of the founders, former slaves of the Jefferson Davis family, will commemorate the 71st anniversary of the town, which is July 12.

P. 2

"As proud as we are of our accomplishments for the past 71 years, we are not unmindful of the fact that the friendly and cooperative attitude of our neighboring towns has been and will continue to be an important factor in the development of our community," Mayor B. A. Green said.

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Father John LaBauve, pastor of St. Gabriel's Catholic Mission, will be the guest speaker at a program in the high school auditorium Sunday night.

50 - 1959

Mound Bayou Holds Annual Fete Sunday

Advocate
Jackson, Miss.
7-11-59

Mound Bayou, Miss., July 6.—Sunday, July 12, will mark the 72nd anniversary of the founding of our community by Isaiah T. Montgomery and his cousin, Benjamin T. Green, both of whom were former slaves of Joseph Davis and his brother, Jefferson Davis, President of the Southern Confederacy. This is a very important day in our community life because of what it means to us (Negroes) down through the years. It is the first attempt at Negro self-government in Mississippi and the United States.

This date is observed annually to remind ourselves of the challenge that comes to carry on in spite of everything and to rededicate our efforts to the task so nobly begun by those who have gone on before. We would be unworthy of citizenship in the community, if we did less. A commemorative program will be rendered in the high school auditorium on Sunday July 12, at 4 p.m. with Rev. N. P. Patterson, pastor of St. Matthews AME Church of Greenville, Miss., bringing the Anniversary message. Our friends from without are invited to share this occasion with us and our own people are expected to be present. After the program, there will be a Pilgrimage to the Cemetery to place wreaths on the graves of the Founders.

Negro Community To Mark Founding

Memphis, Tenn.

Special to The Commercial Appeal

MOUND BAYOU, Miss., July 7.—The 72nd anniversary of the founding of Mound Bayou, all-Negro town in Bolivar County, will be celebrated Sunday afternoon.

Commercial Appeal
Wed 7-8-59

A commemorative program will be held at 4 p.m. in the high school auditorium with Rev. N. P. Patterson of Greenville, Miss., as guest speaker.

Mound Bayou residents will place wreaths on the graves of Isaiah T. Montgomery and Benjamin T. Green, former slaves of Joseph Davis and Jefferson Davis, president of the Confederacy. The former slaves founded the community which local residents claim is the first attempt at Negro self-government in Mississippi and the United States.

✓ Mound Bayou
Miss.

50 1959

MOUND BAYOU, MISSISSIPPI

Mound Bayou To Get New Post Office

Jackson Advocate

Postmaster General Arthur E. Summerfield has announced that a bid has been accepted to lease quarters for the post office at Mound Bayou, Mississippi, from Elmer Jefferson Nowell, Jr., 402 South Fifth Avenue, Cleveland, Mississippi.

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Jackson, Miss

A new brick building containing approximately 2,084 square feet of space will be erected according to the plans and specifications of the Post Office Department on Edwards Street (Highway 61) in Mound Bayou.

Dat. 10-17-59

The new building will be occupied under a ten-year lease term begining April 1, 1960. It will be provided with modern fluorescent lighting and will be completely air conditioned. The lobby will be divided so that patrons of the office will have access to their boxes after the office is closed. The Post Office Department will provide the newest and most modern equipment for the service windows and the boxes.

p. 4

The erection of this building is another step in the program of the Post Office Department to provide better working conditions for the employees of the Post Office and to provide better service to the patrons of the office in a building of which the citizens of Mound Bayou can be proud.

MOUND BAYOU, MISSISSIPPI

Negro Town Has Birthday

The Talladega Daily Home

Talladega, Ala.

Thurs. 7-14-60

P. 7

MOUND BAYOU, Miss. —(AP)— The 73rd birthday of the oldest all-Negro community in the U.S. was observed here Tuesday.

Founded July 12, 1887, Mound Bayou was first settled by Isiah T. Montgomery and Benjamin T. Green, former slaves of Confederate President Jefferson Davis.

This year's observance included a pilgrimage to the founders' graves, an anniversary program and a barbecue.

Mound Bayou Marks 73rd Anniversary

Atlanta Daily World

Atlanta, Ga.

Fri. 7-22-60

P. 6

MOUND BAYOU, Miss. — (ANP) — The oldest all-Negro community in the U. S. has observed its 73rd birthday.

Founded July 12, 1887, Mound Bayou was first settled by Isiah T. Montgomery and Benjamin T. Green former slaves of Confederate Presidnt Jefferson Davis.

This year's observance included a pilgrimage to the founders' graves, an anniversary program and a barbecue.

Mound Bayou Planning 75th Anniversary Celebration

Birmingham World

MOUND BAYOU, Miss. — Mound Bayou, the famous all-colored town in northwest Mississippi, will turn back the pages of history in colorful pageantry, merry-making, religious worship, and eloquent sweep of old-time oratory memorializing its founder, Isaiah Tecumseh Montgomery, comes the second week in July.

81

The ocasion will mark the 75th Anniversary of the founding of the town in 1887 by Montgomery with the backing of his cousin, Benjamin T. Green, and other early settlers. Celebration dates have been set for July 12-15.

Sat 4-7-63

Honorable Wesley Liddell, Mayor of Mound Bayou, is following in the footsteps and the best traditions of his predecessor, the late Benjamin A. Green, in going about the task of making the Diamond Jubilee an unforgetable event. Although a relative newcomer to Mound Bayou, Mayor Liddell had an established reputation as a successful farm operator in the Drew, Mississippi community before coming to this historic town in the heart of the Delta on U S. Highway 61. His infectious smile, and hearty hand shakes were important factors in putting Liddell out in front during the mayorality race for a successor to the late Mayor Green in 1961.

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Birmingham Ala

NEW ENTERPRISES SEEN

Mayor Liddell said that the celebration naturally called for festivities, but that this would not be all of it. "We expect to be ready to announce plans for initiating several new business and industrial enterprises during the celebration," Mayor Liddell asserted.

In connection with the Mayor's announcemnt the town's aldermen and mayor have set up a planning committee to seek new industries and match the surrounding communities in industrial and commercial planning.

Theme for the celebration is: 'Progressive Planning in Agriculture, Industry and Commerce, and Human Relations for a Greater Mound Bayou.'

Most of the detailed plans for the Diamond Jubilee of Mound Bayou will be carried out by the Mound Bayou Civic Club of which Mrs. Pauline T. Holmes, a pioneer resident of the community and teacher in the public schools of nearby Cleveland, Mississippi, is President. The club will work closely with Mayor Liddell and the town aldermen in carrying out a 'cooperative enterprise in which every Mound Bayouan will have opportunity to participate,' declared Mrs. Holmes.

SEEK POSTAGE STAMP

Steps have been taken to get the U. S. Post Office to issue an Anniversary Postage Stamp memorializing the occasion, according to Mayor Liddell and President Holmes. One of the prominent members of the Planning Comittee for the celebration is Honorable Charles V. Thurmond, Sr., Post Master at Mound Bayou, and a long -time resident. Mr. Thurmond is also Secretary of the Mound Bayou School Board of Trustees.

The Celebration will feature addresses by several distinguished leaders including government officials from Washington, D. C. There will be a colorful parade led by two teen-agers who will reign as the "King and Queen" of Mound Bayou. Visitors are expected to include scores of former Mound Bayouans now living in Chicago, Detroit, and other points of the Midwest, East, and on the West Coast.

Mound Bayou, All Negro City, To Commemorate Founding

The Defender
63
Thurs 4-5-63

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Louisville Ky

Best Traditions

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Mound Bayou To Fete Its 50th Year

The Defender
64
50
May 12-18-62

MOUND BAYOU, Miss. — This little all-Negro town, founded in 1887 by Isiah T. Montgomery, a slave boy to Jefferson Davis, the Southern Confederacy's only president, will celebrate its Diamond Anniversary July 12 to 15.

All 1,500 residents of this thriving community are looking forward to the occasion.

Seeking to spread news of the celebration throughout the country, the community has sent on a good will tour Mrs. Altie Crowe, a long time resident who is now in Chicago, to seek friends of Mound Bayou, who would be interested in helping make the anniversary observance a national occasion.

Chicago Ill

Mound Bayou is the oldest all-Negro community in the United States with its own government and taxing system. It has a public and Catholic elementary and high school and post office.

Mound Bayou's 75th Anniversary To Stress Progressive Planning

Atlanta World

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Sat 4-1-62

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Sun 4-1-62

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With reservations—

All-Negro town sees whites' side

Birmingham News

P. 67 Thurs.

MOUND BAYOU, Miss., Oct. 4 —(AP)—C. V. Thurmond is a Negro, postmaster of Mound Bayou, only all-Negro community in the nation. 10-4-62

"Most of us here sympathize with the white people," he said today, gesturing vaguely to the northeast where 80 miles away is strife-torn Oxford.

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"We've had no red flag waving around here, and all of us sincerely hope this incident at the university will not affect the excellent relationship we've all had with the white community."

Birmingham

NEGROES IN this Delta cotton village. of 1,500, he said, realize it is hard either for whites or Negroes to accept suddenly complete reversal of a situation they had grown to accept for more than 100 years. Ala.

Mayor Wesley Liddell—without challenging the validity of Thurmond's words—said his personal feelings tended to James H. Meredith, the 29-year-old Kosiciusko, Miss., Negro now attending the University of Mississippi—the first of his race there in 114 years.

"All the boy is asking," said the mayor, "is for his rights as guaranteed by the Constitution. None of us here want to get too involved in the matter,"

City Marshal Albert Isom and his deputy, Ike Reed, express similar feelings. But, said Isom, he had lived in Negro-segregated Mound Bayou all his life. He has grown to accept things as they are, he said, and "I'm not anxious for any change at all."

Schoou Supt. C. J. Jones at Isaiah T. Montgomery school said he prefers the life he is living here to that of an integrated society.

"I came here nine years ago of my own choice, knowing the situation I was coming into," he said. "After you learn something of the founding of this town you get to feel a strong, proud attachment for it."

He said the twon's founder and namesake of the school, Montgomery, had been a slave to the brother of Confederate President Jefferson Davis. Davis entrusted Montgomery with the running of his plantation during many visits to Washington and elsewhere, Jones said.

"In fact," Jones said, "if you go to Jackson and look at the records, you'd find that the man who was secretary to the Mississippi constitutional convention and who signed the papers was a man named Isaiah T. Montgomery, the same old bearded Negro who founded this town."

268

268

BIG CELEBRATION — Highway 61, Mound Bayou, Mississippi's Main Street, was bustling with activity yesterday and will be today as the Negro-run town celebrates its 75th anniversary.

Mound Bayou All A-Glitter As Nation Notes Birthday

Special to The Commercial Appeal

MOUND BAYOU, Miss., July 13.—Revelry reigns supreme in Mound Bayou.

But firmly intertwined into the Thursday-through-Saturday festivities celebrating the all-Negro community's 75th anniversary is a thread of reverence for the past and hope for the future. Mayor Wesley Liddell Sr. epitomized that feeling in his anniversary greetings by calling for "constant progress and improvement" and proclaiming that "we cannot and will not stand still."

The Commercial Appeal

The sundrenched community, sweltering but undaunted by temperature readings of 106 degrees, is expected to double its normal population of 1,500 by Saturday. A special delegation of 30 has arrived by train from Chicago.

Thurmond

Sleek cars, bearing license tags from Indiana, Illinois, Missouri and Tennessee, are familiar sights in Mound Bayou these days. Others are visiting from more distant points—the District of Columbia, Colorado, Wisconsin and Michigan. Most are either former residents or descendants of residents, eager to have a close look at the storied town.

7-14-62

The most common question heard was, "Do you remember

WELCOME — Mrs. Fannie Liddell (left), wife of Mound Bayou Mayor Wesley Liddell, welcomes Mrs. Alice Dunnigan of Washington to the celebration.

Memphis, Tenn.

Visitors were greeted by waving banners, a spruced-up community, and well-dressed committee members identified by a large button bearing the twin pictures of the town's founders, I. T. Montgomery and his cousin, B. T. Green. Both were well educated slaves belonging to a brother of Confederate President Jefferson Davis. They established the town in 1887.

Probably the most startling welcome was that provided by the wilted army of television technicians, photographers, artists, and reporters who have flooded the town since Monday. Sprinkled about were representatives from the National Broadcasting Company, The Defender, and Magnum Company.

The eight-member NBC team from New York and Washington arrived Monday to begin color filming for a fall David Brinkley's Journal Presentation. Included were a director, unit manager, sound man and cameramen. Their five days' work will be compressed into a 15-minute segment for Brinkley's show.

Commenting on the unexpected coverage, Mayor Liddell said, "We certainly hope to benefit from all this publicity. Primarily we are still an agricultural area; there are no industries here. Now we can draw attention to the many good features of the city and hope that some industry might be attracted to the community."

The Mayor mentioned a five-man Mound Bayou area development committee, established last year, which will study factors essential to the basic progress of the town. The group now is concentrating on development of a new sewer system and road improvement. It is also negotiating to bring a shoe factory into the community.

The Diamond Jubilee celebration began Thursday with a memorial service at the Bethel A. M. E. Church. Principal speaker was Dr. Ernest Smith, president of Rust College at Holly Springs.

He addressed the crowd in the white heat of television spotlights and to the accompaniment of fluttering hand fans. His sermon was punctuated by rising nurmers of "amen" and twice by thundering applause.

After memorial services, wreaths were placed on the graves of the founders and early settlers. Rev. A. A. Thompson delivered the eulogy. Later Dr. Robert Stevens, president of Campbell College, Jackson, gave the Founders' Day address at the Bolivar County Baptist Seminary. A parade, ball game, and dance followed.

On Friday, a forum featured Mrs. Alice Dunnigan of the presidents committee on equal employment opportunity.

Mayor Liddell, the sixth in the Mound Bayou's history, will conduct a tour of the city Saturday morning. Stops will include the air-conditioned post office, completed in 1960 at a cost of about $40,000, where C. V. Thurmond has served as postmaster since 1927.

Visitors will also see the Mound Bayou Consolidated School, Opportunity Center kindergarten, Henrietta Cleggs kindergarten school, and St. Gabriel's School, operated by the Divine Word Missionaries and Oblate Sisters of Providence, and the modern $100,000 Taborian Hospital, built in 1942.

Progressive Agriculture Continued Improvement In Education Coming Of Industry And Commerce Theme Of 75th Anniversary of State's All-Negro Town Of Mound Bayou

Jackson Advocate

Special Train From Chicago To Bring Celebrants To Three Day Event

P. 1

Mound Bayou, Miss. July 2—(Special To Jackson Advocate)—Progressive agriculture, continued improvement in education, and the advent of industry and commerce will underline key addresses, and series of panel discussions when the Town of Mound Bayou, Mississippi celebrate its 75th anniversary the second week in July. Celebration dates for the famous all-colored town established three quarters of a century ago by Isaiah T. Montgomery and Benjamin T. Green will be July 12th through the 15th, it has been announced by Mayor Wesley Liddell.

Sat

7-7-62

Jackson

Miss

Dr. Ernest A. Smith, president of Rust College, Holly Springs; and Dr. R. M. Stevens, president of Campbell College, Jackson, Mississippi, will give the two Founders' Day addresses Thursday, July 12th. The Rust College president, who is a distinguished alumnus of the institution he now heads, will be morning speaker at Bethal A. M. E. Church, located on U. S. Highway 61, in the heart of the town. Rev. B. H. Martin is host pastor. Thursday afternoon President Smith, who holds degrees from Florida A. & M. University, and Fisk University, will address a Founders' Day audience in the auditorium of the I. T. Montgomery Attendance Center, situated just east of the highway.

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Jackson

Roll Call of the early settlers . . . from 1887 to the year 1900, will be made during the two Founder's Day programs, following visitation to the grave of I. T. Montgomery, one of the historic landmarks of the town he founded as an all-colored colony during the 'weary days of the Reconstruction.'

Advocate

Illinois Central Railroad officials, in cooperation with the celebration, are helping to lay plans for a special train to run from Chicago to Mound Bayou for the three-day celebration. Former Mound Bayouans, living in Detroit, St. Louis, and Memphis are expected to join the Mound Bayou Special. Details of the special may be secured from Mrs. Maudister Davis, of 438 East 45th Place, Chicago, Illinois, president of the Chicago—-Mound Bayou Club; Mrs. Athea Crowe, Drawer 190, Mound Bayou, Mississippi; or Lewis O. Swingler, chairman of the Souvenir Brouchure, P. O. Box 2031, DeSoto Station, Memphis 2, Tennessee.

P. 5. Sat.

Mrs. Alice Dunnigan, prominent Washington, D. C. newspaper woman and presently identified with the President's Committee on Employment Opportunity, has been invited to head up a discussion on new avenues for industry and commerce. Her scheduled appearance will be in keeping with the present work of Mound Bayou's Area Development Committee, appointed by Mayor Liddell to seek industry and business for the community. John F. Huddleston, veteran Mound Bayou merchant, and an alderman of the town, serves as chairman. Other members of the committee are Alderman Herman Johnson, Loran Hawkins, postal employee, Garland Stringer, grocer, Thomas H. Moore, cotton buyer, and funeral home manager.

7-7-62

Sherman Briscoe, Information Specialist, U. S. Department of Agriculture, is expected to return to his native Mississippi to highlight the Farmers' Day Program Saturday, July 14th. In an anniversary message to Mound Bayou officials this week, Mr. Briscoe, who was born in the Delta city of Greenville, declared:

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"In a way the building of Mound Bayou and the building of the great citadel in Haiti have much in common. Christopher saw the citadel as a symbol of pride and self-respect for every Haitian. I think Mr. Montgomery saw Mound Bayou in much the same way. To him the town was proof of something that had meaning for every Negro in the Mississippi Delta and more than that, every member of the race in America. My congratulations to the anniversary's moving spirits who are reviving the great aspirations of the founders of the community. As never before, the image of a successful Mound Bayou is needed as a symbol of constructive Negro leadership in 1962."

Advocate

The farmers program will be under direction of the Bolivar County Farm Bureau of which G. W. Spears, Jr., successful farmer and landowner of Mound Bayou, is president.

Sat

7-7-62

Jackson

During the Youth Program, headed by Herbert Martin, senior at Mound Bayou High School, and who will reign as the Diamond Jubilee King, there will be presented an hour-long pageant, entitled the 'Spirit of Mound Bayou.' Written by L. O. Swingler, of Mound Bayou High School faculty, and who presently is preparing a book on the history of the town, the pageant depicts the historical highlights of the community with a background of music by the combined youth choirs of First Baptist and Bethel A.M.E. Church. Miss Legora Peterson, teacher at I. T. Montgomery Center, is in charge of music.

Miss

The celebration is jointly sponsored by Mound Bayou officials, and the Mound Bayou Civic Club, of which Mrs. Pauline Holmes is president. There is being published a 60-page souvenir brochure to mark the occasion, Miss Minnie Fisher, native Mound Bayouan and Town Clerk, serves as editor. Entertainment will include an old-fashioned picnic, baseball games, and a series of platter parties for the youths.

The Afro-American p.6 Sat 4-14-62 Baltimore, Md.

MEET THE MAYOR'S FAMILY — Mayor and Mrs. Wesley Liddell of Mound Bayou, Miss., with their four-month son, Wesley Jr., in the beautiful well-appointed Liddell mansion on U.S. Highway 61. Mrs. Liddell, teacher at the I.T. Montgomery Attendance Center in Mound Bayou, is helping the mayor shape up plans for the 75th anniversary of Mound Bayou in July.

Mound Bayou residents plan 4-day 75th anniversary fete

The Afro-American P.6 Baltimore, Md.

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The occasion will mark the 75th Anniversary of the founding of the town in 1887 by Montgomery with the backing of his cousin, Benjamin T. Green, and other early settlers.

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A relatively newcomer to Mound Bayou, Mayor Liddell had an established reputation as a successful farm operator in the Drew, Miss. community before coming here.

Sat. 4-14-62

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The celebration will feature addresses by several leaders, including government officials. There will be a colorful parade led by two teen-agers who will reign as the "King and Queen" of Mound Bayou.

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The Jackson Advocate

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The Jackson Advocate p6

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The Crusader
Chicago, Ill.
Sat. 5/17-62
p 20

All-Negro Town Celebrates Its Diamond Anniversary

The little all-Negro town of Mound Bayou, Mississippi, founded in 1887 by Isaiah T. Montgomery, a slave boy to Jefferson Davis, the Southern Confederacy's only president, will celebrate its Diamond Anniversary, July 12, 13, 14 and 15.

MRS. ALTIE CROWE

All 1,500 residents of the thriving community are looking forward to the occasion.

Seeking to spread news of the celebration throughout the country, the community has sent on a good will tour Mrs. Altie Crowe, long time resident of the small town and who is currently in Chicago, to seek friends of Mound Bayou, who would be interested in helping make the anniversary observance a national occasion.

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Situated in the heart of the Mississippi cotton farming belt it has three Negro owned and operated cotton gins, a 70 bed hospital, its own police department and municipal government; a modern clinic is in its final stages of construction.

O. K. Grant And Loan For Mound Bayou, Miss.

Birmingham World

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WASHINGTON — (NNPA) — The all - Negro town of Mound Bayou, Miss., will receive a $$242,320 public works grant and a $221,000 public facility loan from the Community Facilities Administration to improve its water and public sewer systems.

Birmingham World

Commissioner Sidney H. Woolner of CFA said the $519,000 will provide additional water distribution lines and storage and treatment facilities, in addition to pumping stations and a lagoon.

Mound Bayou Mayor Wesley Liddell said the town is supplementing the CFA grant and loan with $55,680 from another source. He said the project will include 5,000 linear feet of street paving.

Sat. 7-20-63

Construction is expected to begin in 100 days and to provide 390 man - months of local labor.

Mound Bayou is located in Bolivar County, in the west central part of Mississippi. The population of the area to be served by the new facilities is 2,200.

85

The Accelerated Public Works Program, signed into law by President Kennedy on Sept. 14, 1962, was designed to help in the iniation and speed up of local and federal public works projects that would help provide immediate work for the unemployed and underemployed in labor surplus areas.

Woolner, whose agency is a part of Dr. Robert C. Weaver's Housing and Home Finance Agency, said payment of the grant is contingent on the receipt of "firm and binding assurance" of the availability of Mound Bayou's share of the project cost.

The loan is contingent on the inability of Mound Bayou to obtain private financing on reasonable terms.

Grant-loan made to Mound Bayou

Afro American

Baltimore, Afr.

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Sat. 7-20-63

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p. 17

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Mound Bayou, Miss. Gets $298,000 Loan

Birmingham World p. 2

Sat 6-20-64

WASHINGTON — (NNPA) — The April directory of approved public works projects, issued Monday by Commerce Department, lists the all-colored town of Mound Bayou, Miss., as the recipient of two Federal loans totalling $298,000.

Birmingham Ala

The first, an Accelerated Public Works (APW) loan of $27,000 was approved to help finance the construction of a $96,000 lagoon. Other Federal funds in this project, falling under the jurisdiction of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, and the Public Service, amount to $29,000.

Work on the lagoon was started last December and was reported as 80 per cent completed at the end of April.

A second APW loan of $242,000 was approved for the construction of water facilities which eventually will cost $519,000. This project was reported as being only 3 per cent completed in April. It was processed through the Community Facilities Administration of the Housing and Home Finance Agency.

280

Mound Bayou Dedicates First Paved Street

Jackson Advocate

[illegible]

Sat 7-17-65

MOUND BAYOU, Miss. — A 5,500 foot concrete street, the first paved city street in this all - Negro community, was dedicated here Monday as part of the 78th annual founders' day program.

Jackson, Miss

Jackson engineer Warren A. Garrott, who supervised constructiom of the street, cut the ribbon to officially open the project. It was financed under a $519,000 federal grant for a water, sewer and street system.

Mayor Wesley Liddell said the Bolivar County community previously had installed a water system which included a 200-gallon per minute pump and fluoridaton unit and a sewer system.

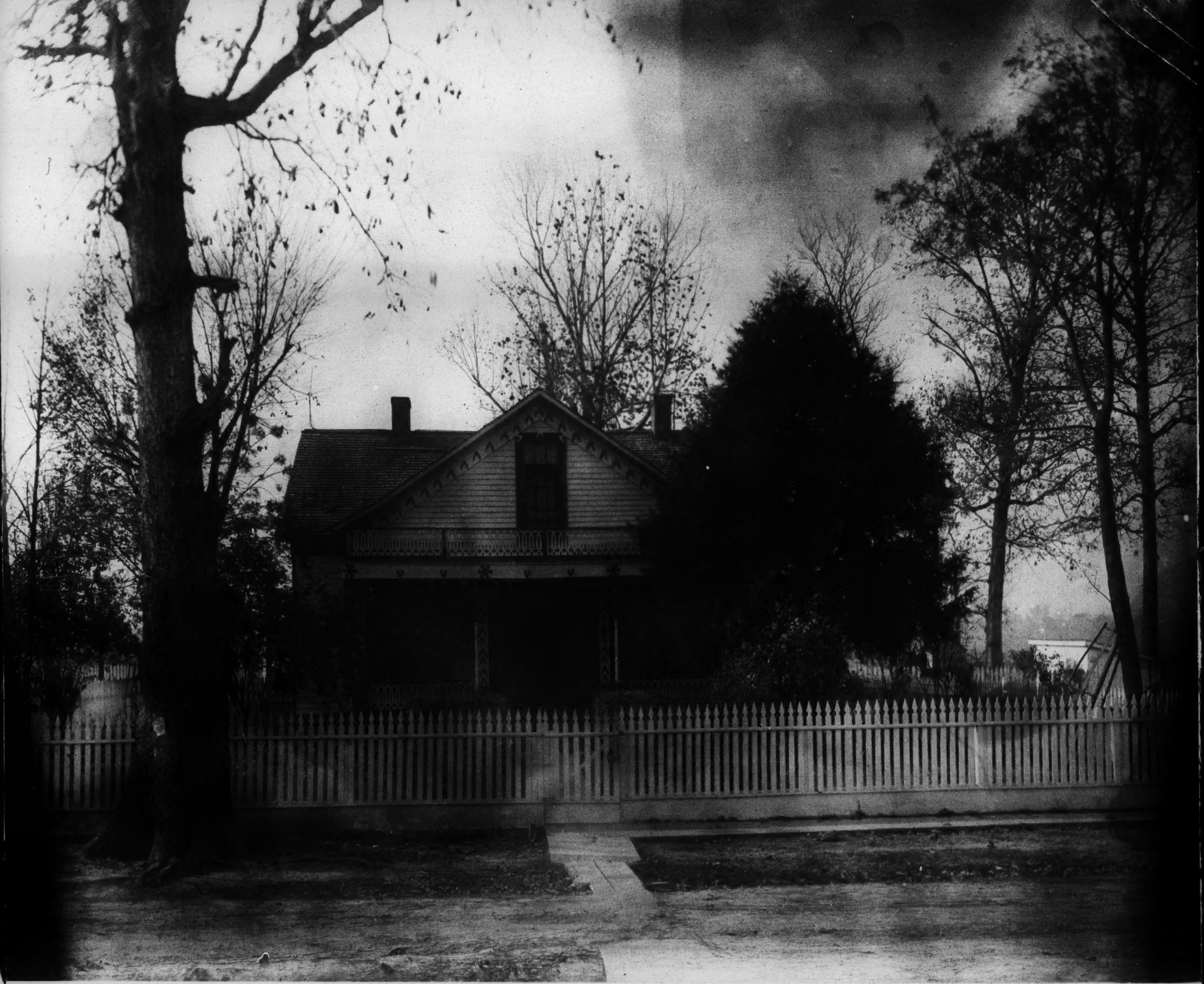
Jackson Advocate

Ex-slave and former legislator Isaiah T. Montgomery founded Mound Bayou in 1887. He and an assistant, Benjamin T. Green, were buried here.

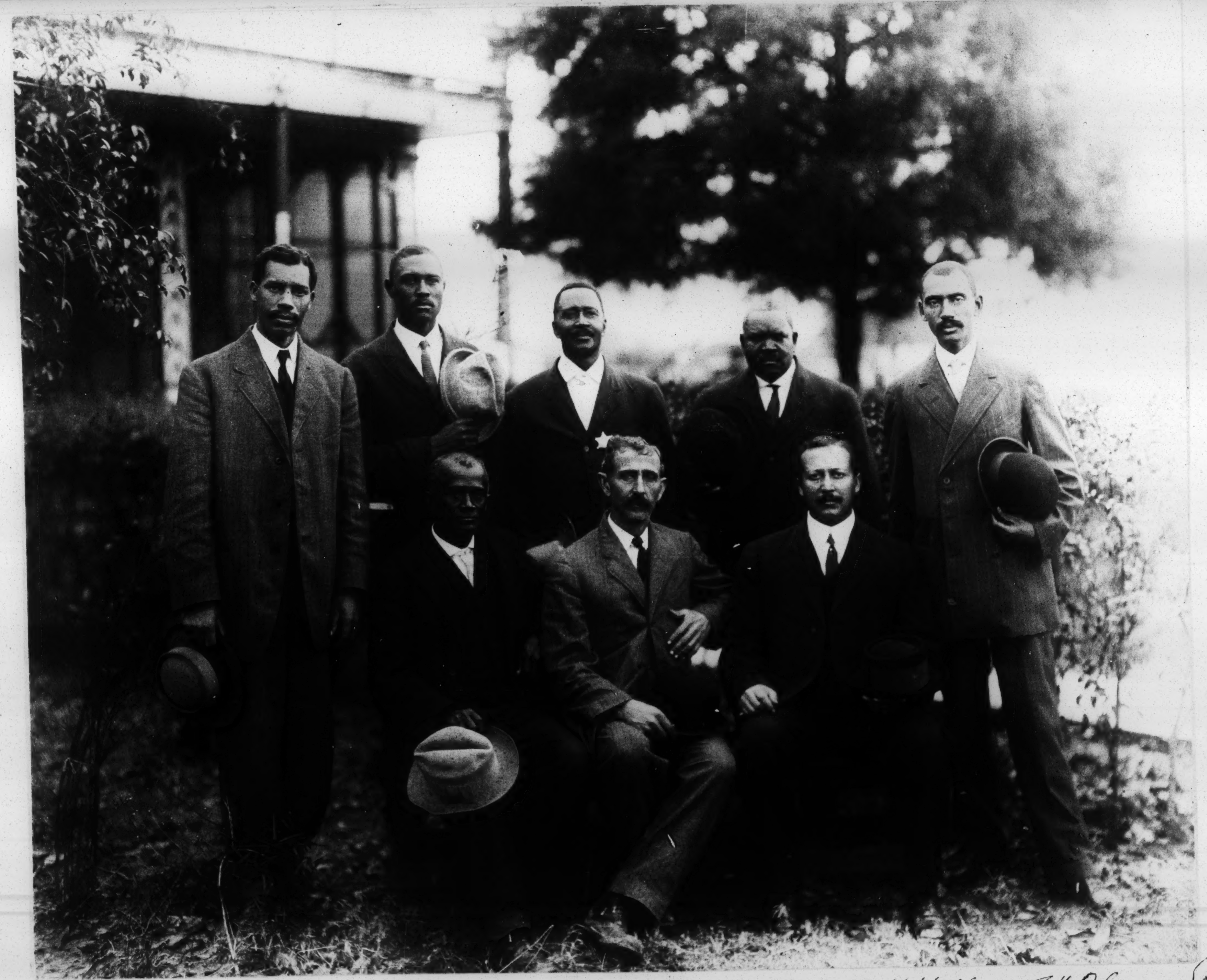
resigned last spring as director of the Voice of America after a policy dispute.

Sat 7-14-6

Rowan's departure apparently was an amicable one even though the USIA has been involved in a public policy dispute in recent months.



No.4- MOUND BAYOU MISS.,
First Residence erected in the Town; Home of Isaiah T. Montgomery.

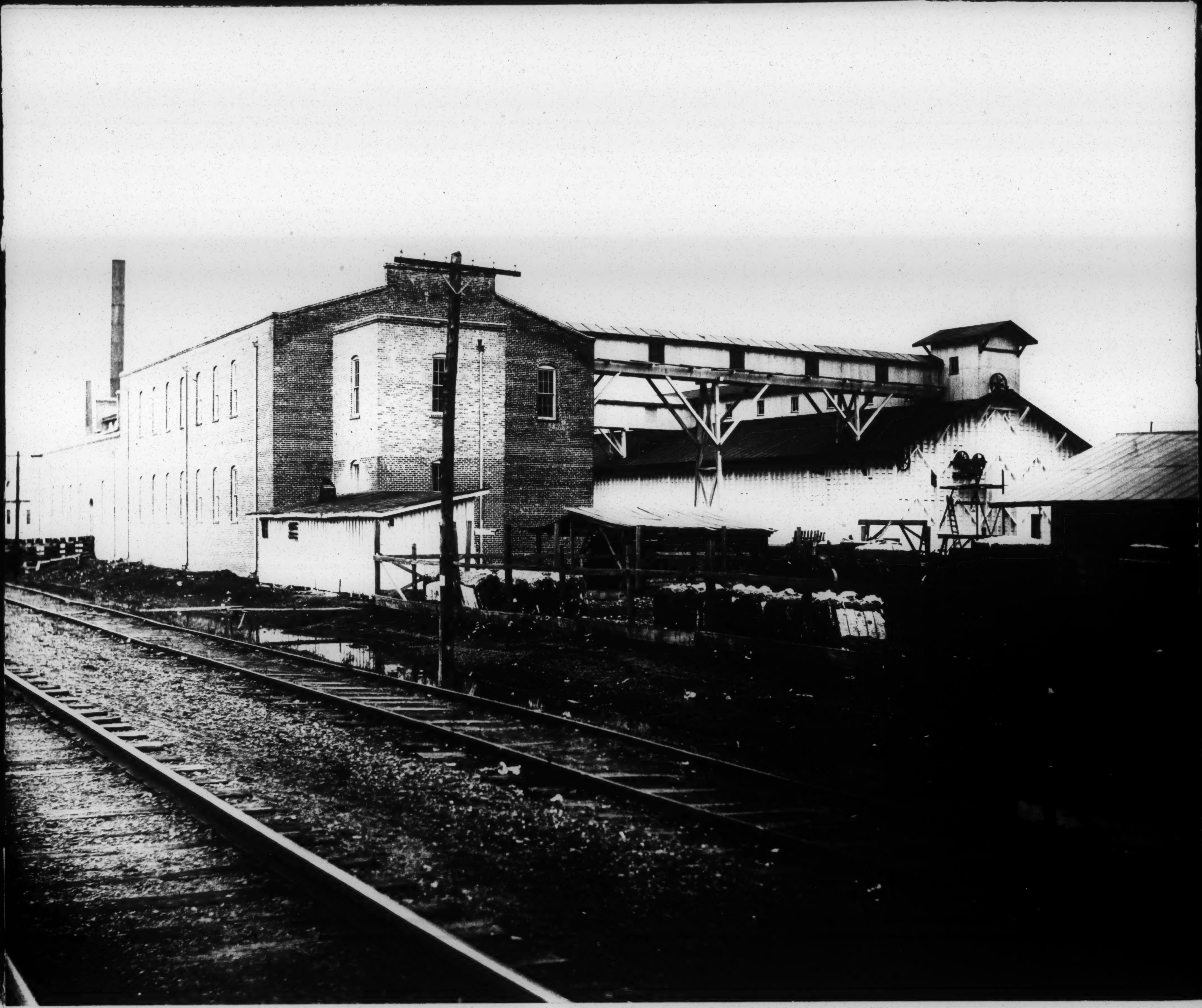


Top Row from left to right Y. M. Stringer, Jas M. Marr, C. H. Williams Marshall, T. H. Black, Jno. H. Harris Clerk

Bottom Row from left to right P. T. Montgomery Atty., D. H. Cresswell Mayor, J. W. Francis Vice Mayor

LONG & BLOCKLEY

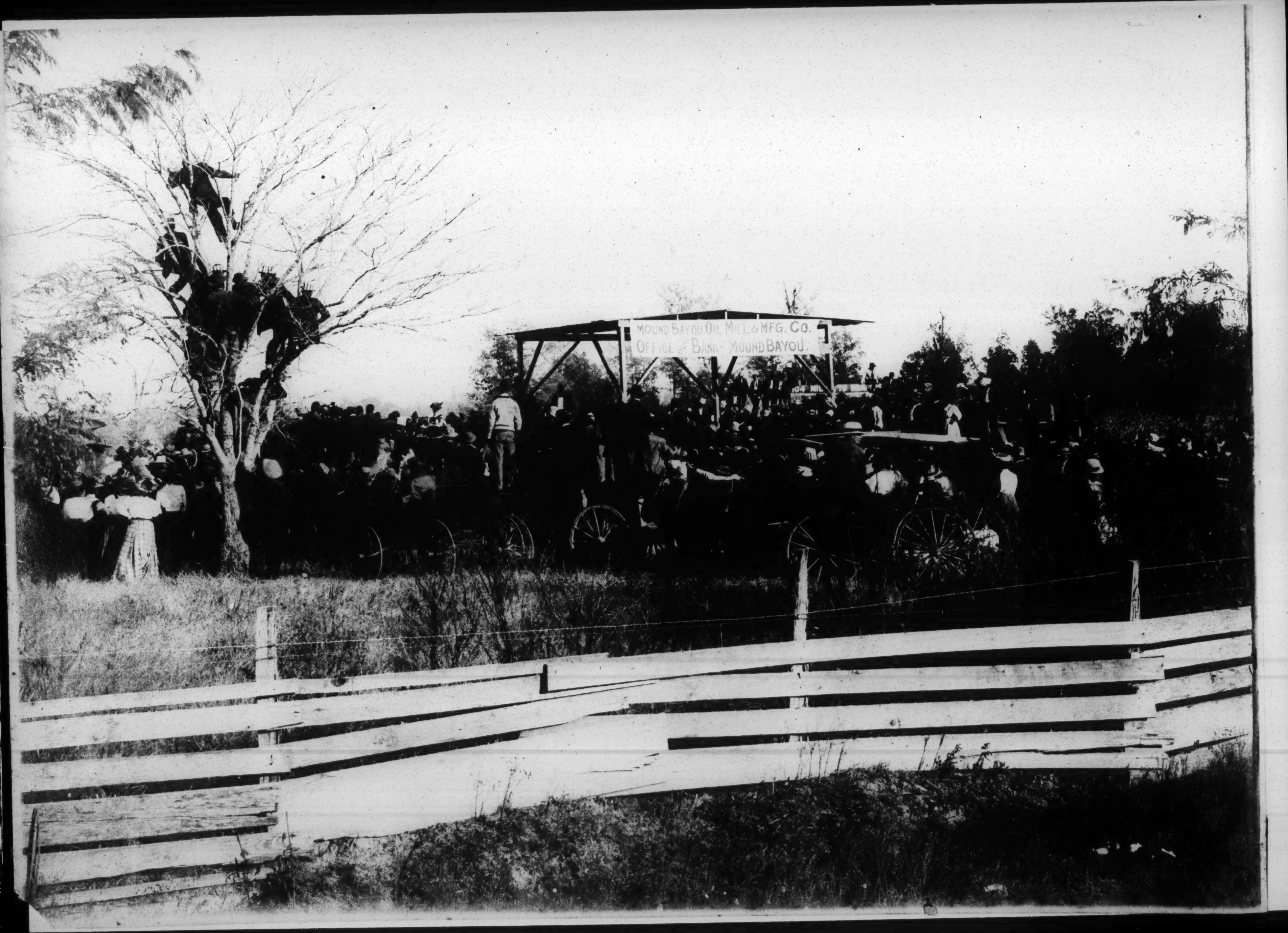
" Mound Bayou City Council 1913-1914 "

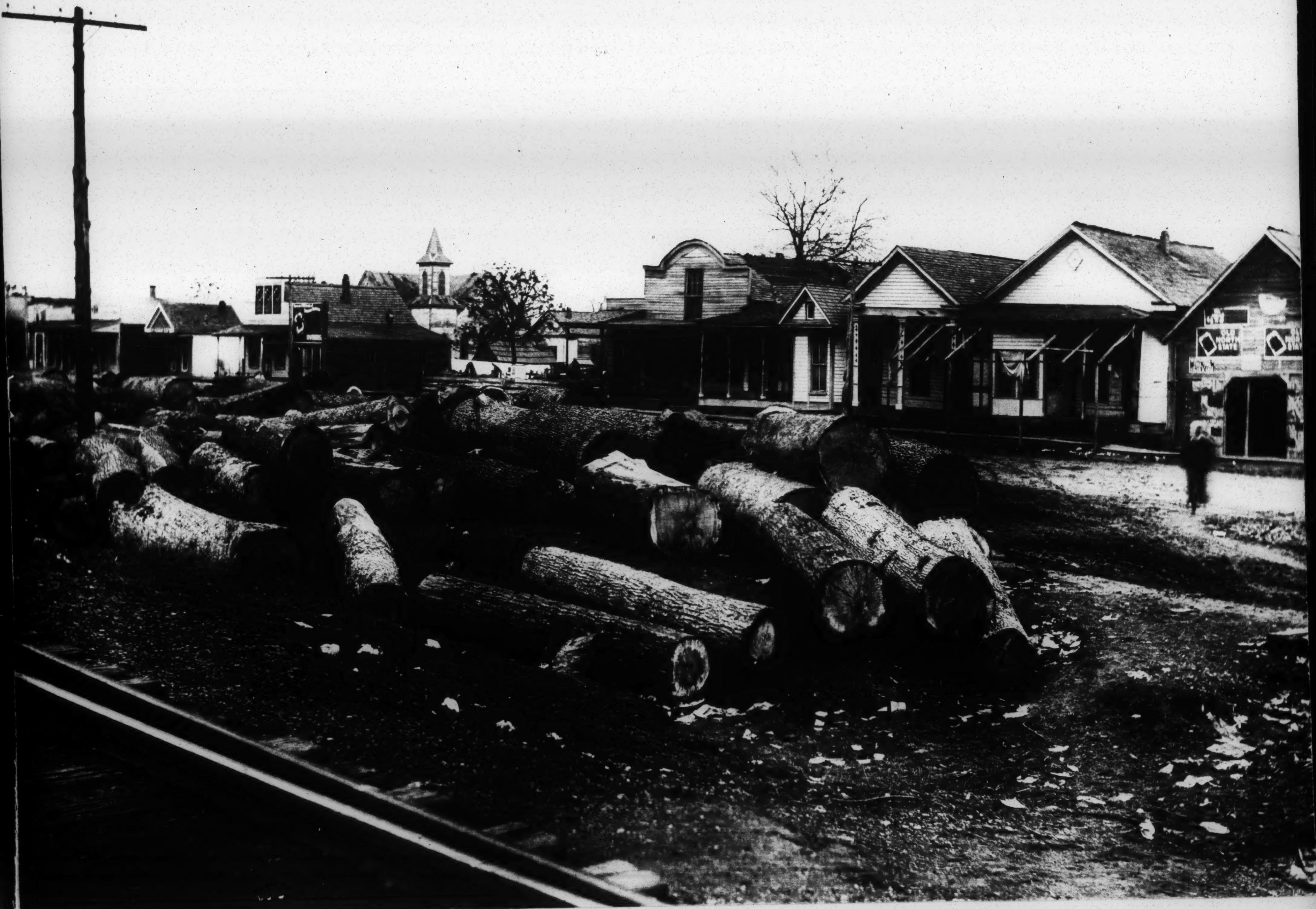


MOUND BAYOU MISS., I.T. Montgomery's Addition, Block A and B.
Partial View of Montgomery Gin Plant, and South View of the Mound Bayou Oil Mill Plant.

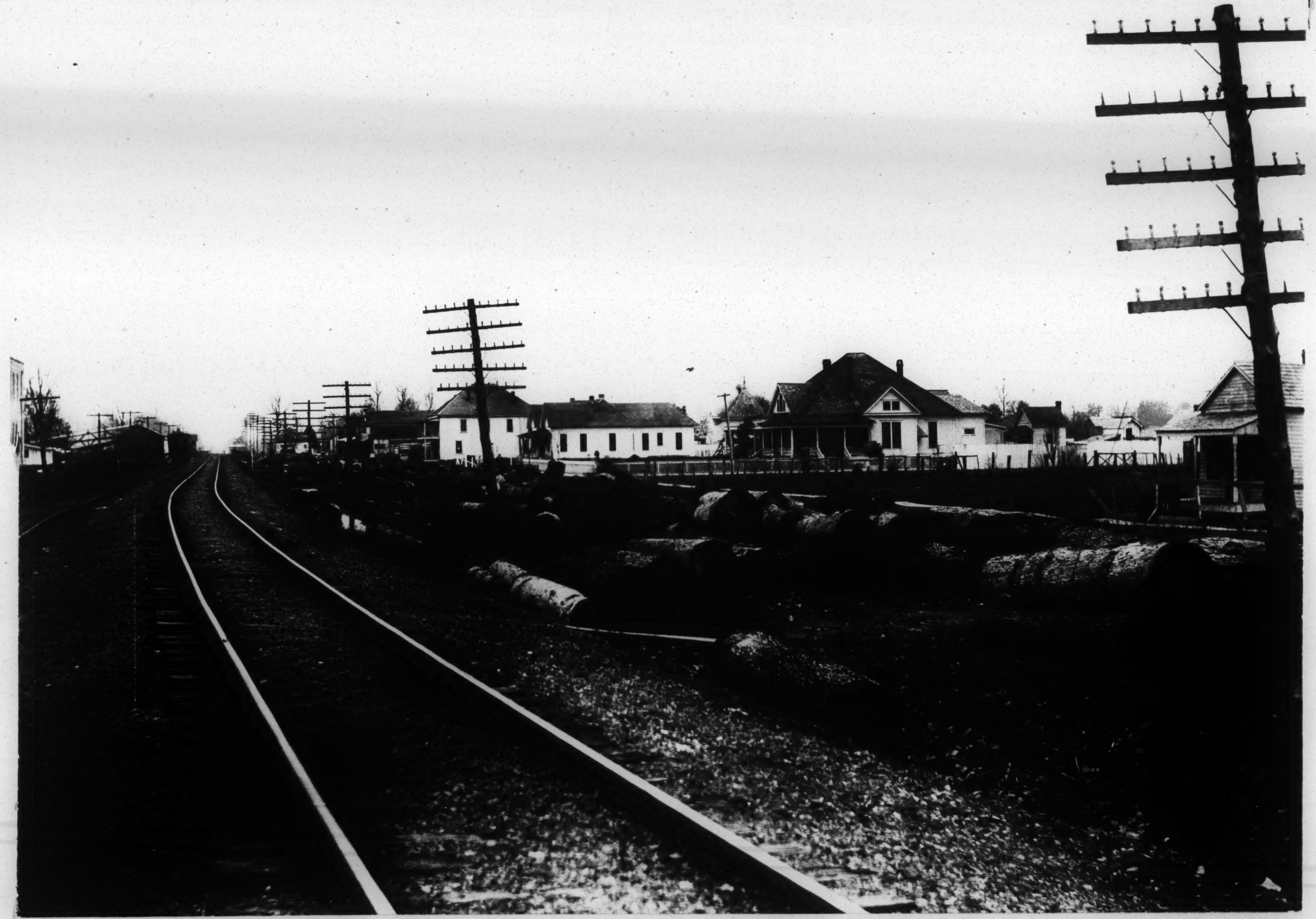
MOUND BAYOU
MOUND BAYOU DRUG STORE

MOUND BAYOU, MISS.,
Yazoo & Miss., Valley Ry., Partial View of Block 8 on ~~west~~ East Main Street.

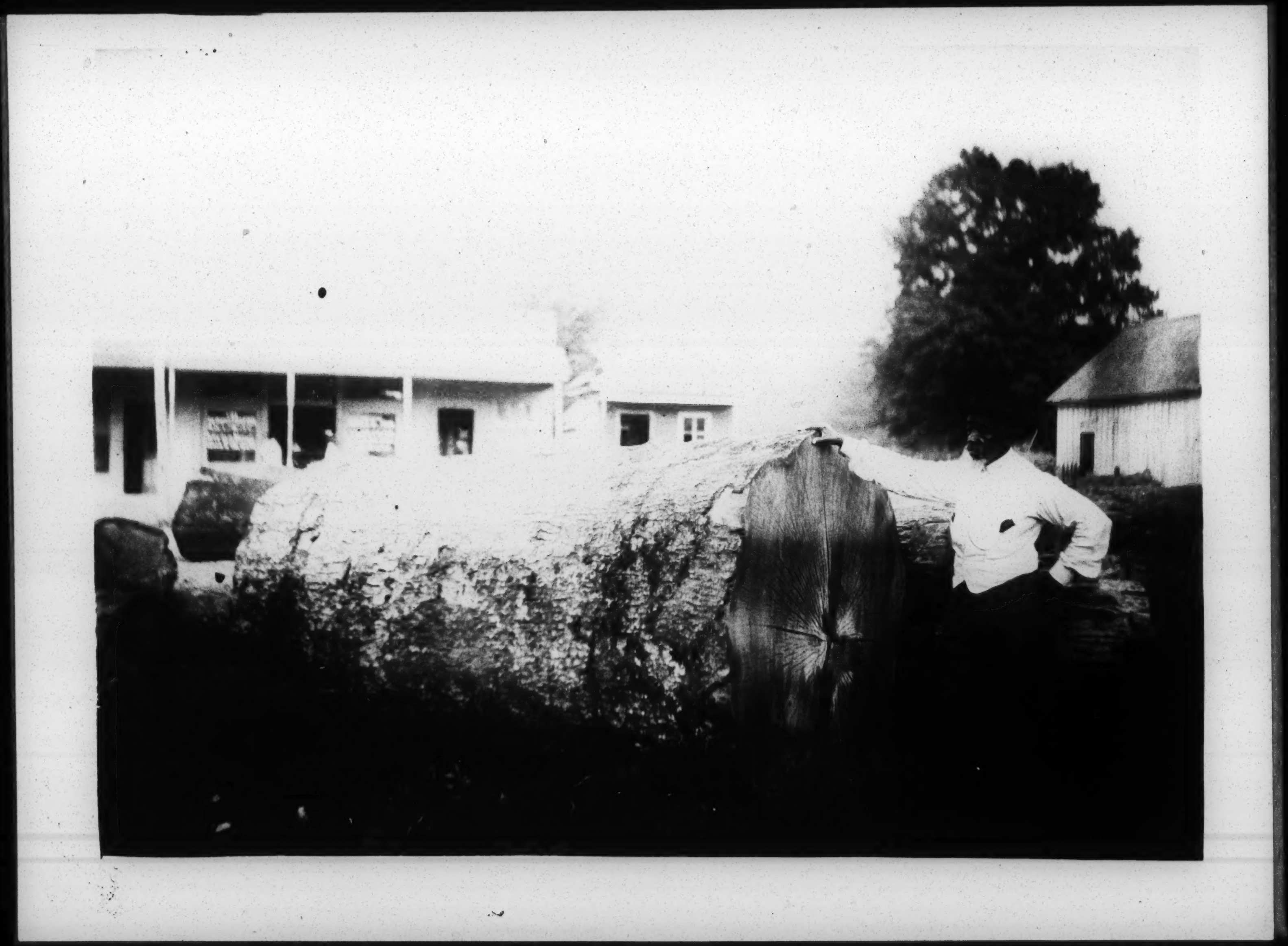

MOUND BAYOU OIL MILL & MFG. CO.
OFFICE OF BANK OF MOUND BAYOU.
104 MIL



MOUND BAYOU MISS.,
Partial View of Block 7 on East Main Street.

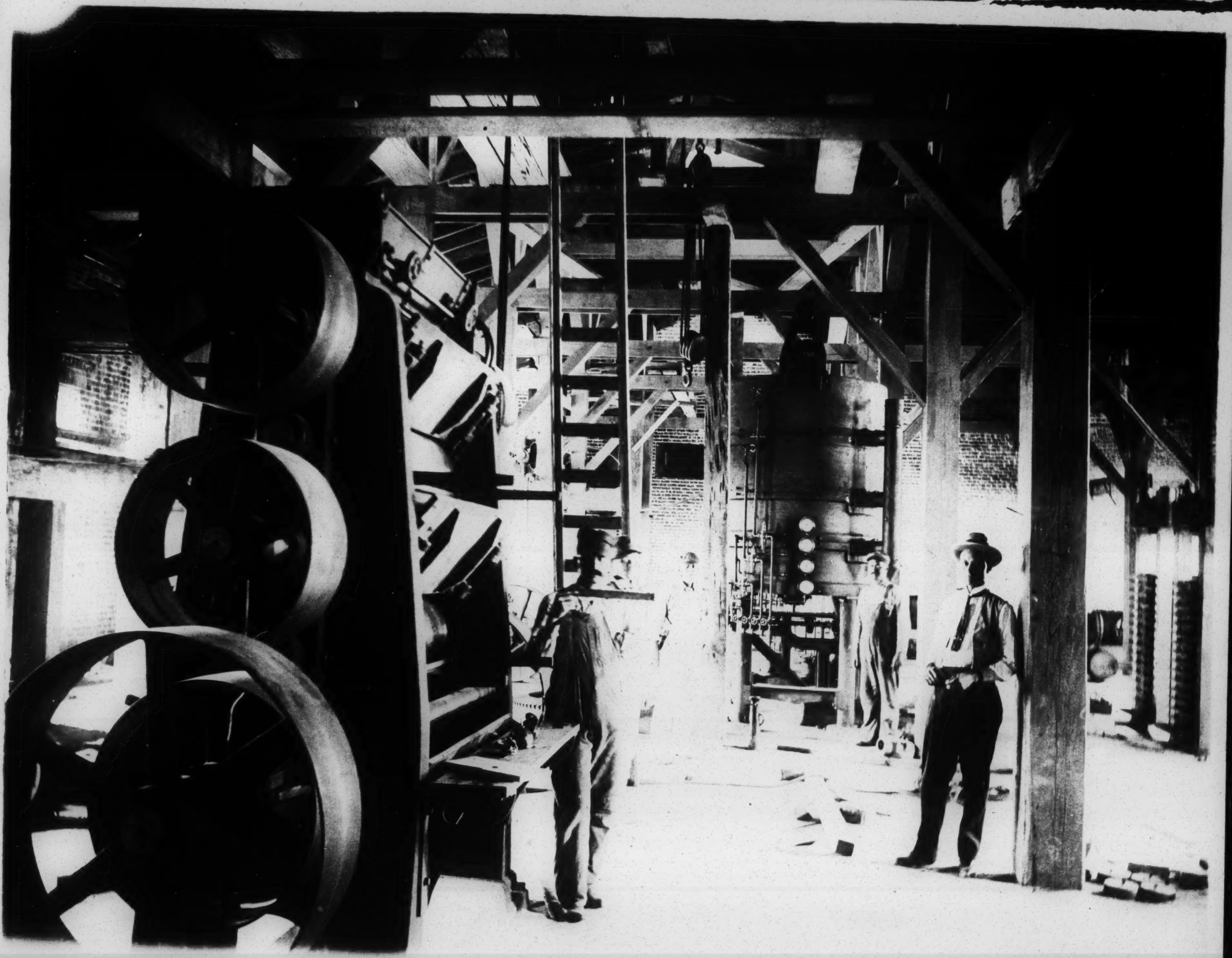


MOUND BAYOU MISS., Looking South.
Partial View of Block D, in I.T. Montgomery's Addition; Residence Chas. Banks.
And Partial view of Block 10 on West Main Street, orig. survey Mound Bayou.



White Oak Log at Mound Bayou Miss., 12 Feet Long by 48 ins., Diameter,

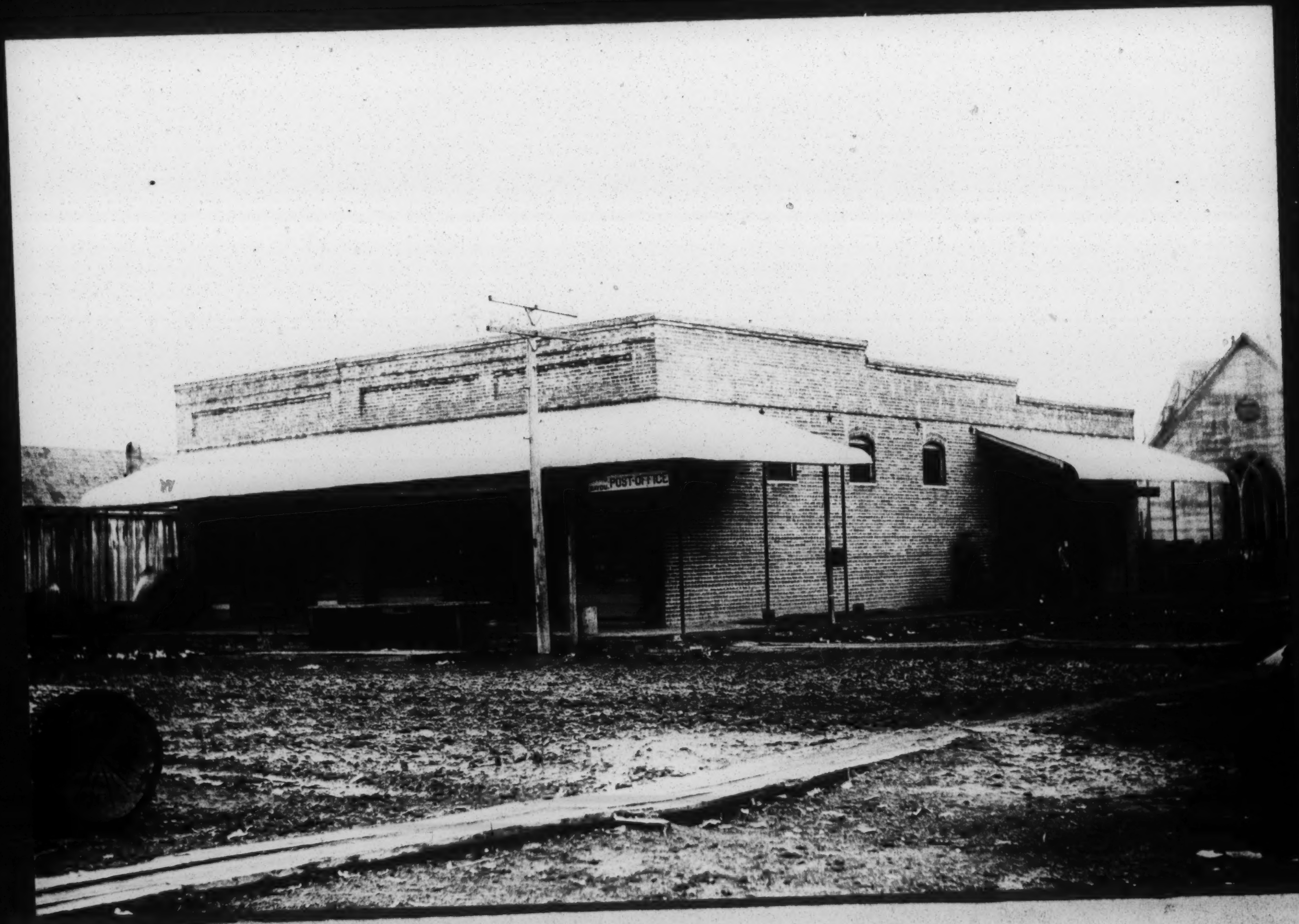
Contains 1600 Feet 2½¢ Value $40.00



PRESS ROOM

MOUND BAYOU OIL MILL

& MANUFACTORING CO.


POST-OFFICE

MOUND BAYOU MISS.,
Farmers Co-operative Mercantile Co.,Building; U.S.Post Office,

Towns and settlements - 1930 Mississippi 105

Mt. Carmel in Mississippi

POST
VICKSBURG, MISS.

JUN 2 6 19[illegible]

RIVAL FOR MOUND BAYOU.

MT. CARMEL, a town in Jefferson Davis county, has become a rival of Mound Bayou, noted exclusive negro settlement in the delta in this state.

Mt. Carmel has been abandoned by the whites and turned over to the colored people.

An interesting article sent out from Prentiss, Miss., says:

"Mt. Carmel in Jefferson Davis county, is like Mound Bayou, a strictly negro town. Mt. Carmel was once en enterprising white village, but with the coming of the Mississippi Central railroad, the town was abandoned, 'lock, stock and barrel,' to the negroes. The darkies have their church, school and the once palatial residences of the whites, for homes. They have their own voting precinct and election commissioners appoint negroes to manage the elections. No white people living there. The negroes are law-abiding and many of them prosperous, the land about the village and community being fine for cotton and feed-stuffs. There is seldom any 'devilment' going on at Mt. Carmel. The negroes own their own homes and ride in automobiles.

"The negro inhabitants have a Rosenwald schoolhouse, a teachers' home and a neatly painted church, of which they are very proud. They show a community interest that is commendable."

Towns and Settlements-1935 Mississippi.

Unique Mississippi Settlement Flourishing

Schuyler Tells of Negro Ridge—A Negro Land In Dixie—100 Families Own 80 Square Miles of Land In a Kingdom All Their Own.

By GEORGE S. SCHUYLER

COLLINS, Miss., Nov. 27—If there is any lingering doubt in anyone's mind of the ability of colored folk to fend for themselves without the guiding hand of the white brother, I invite him to visit Negro Ridge (sometimes called "Nigger" Ridge), a half dozen miles from this South Mississippi town.

I had been hearing about "The Ridge" ever since I landed in Mississippi. "By all means go to the Ridge," people advised. So I went, invited by Prof. E. S. McCaskill, the energetic young principal of the Hopewell Vocational School who also serves as the county farm agent.

It was a cold, blustery day when the Tri-State bus halted on the main street of Collins. Prof. T. J. Williams of the Jones County Training School was there with his car to meet me. Away we went over hill and dale for a half dozen miles, to finally come to a halt on tree-shaded plaeau where nestled a fine, well-built and well-painted school, with agricultural building and principal's home, and as attractive a country church as can be found anywhere in the South.

It was a gala day at Negro Ridge. The annual fair was in progress. Outside the agricultural building fat cows and hogs, stalwart bulls, bawling calves and sturdy mules and horses were tethered, waiting for J. D. Hardy, the agricultural authority from the Piney Woods school to come and judge them. Inside the building were rows of canned fruit, boxes of big pecans, great stalks of sugar cane, prize cotton, huge yams, fat pumpkins, sides of cured meat, pedigreed hens and so forth. One room of the school was hung with quilts and other examples of handicraft.

In the midst of and surrounding all this were milling crowds of happy, earnest, thirfty, hard-working farmers, with their wives and children, standing around, swapping stories and greetings under the cold November sky. It was a holiday in a Negro land.

Later they sat attentively for an hour while I spoke to them.

Negro Ridge is REALLY a Negro land. Here 100 black families own all the land within an area of eighty square miles. Their little kingdom is ROUGHLY thirteen miles long by five miles wide. Here they rule. The Hopewell School District is controlled and administered by them. They plant, weed, harvest and sell their crops, tend their cattle and chickens, cure their meat and store their grain without the advice or orders of the white man.

And Negro Ridge is a success, no question about that. These Negroes are as near being free and independent as any in Mississippi, and nearer than the majority. All they need to be truly self-sufficient is a cooperative grocery and dry-goods store. They are demonstrating here how it is possible for the Negroes of the South to beat the plantation system and the exploitation and persecution it engenders. There has never been a lynching in Covington County where Negro Ridge is located. That is significant.

Courier

11-30-35

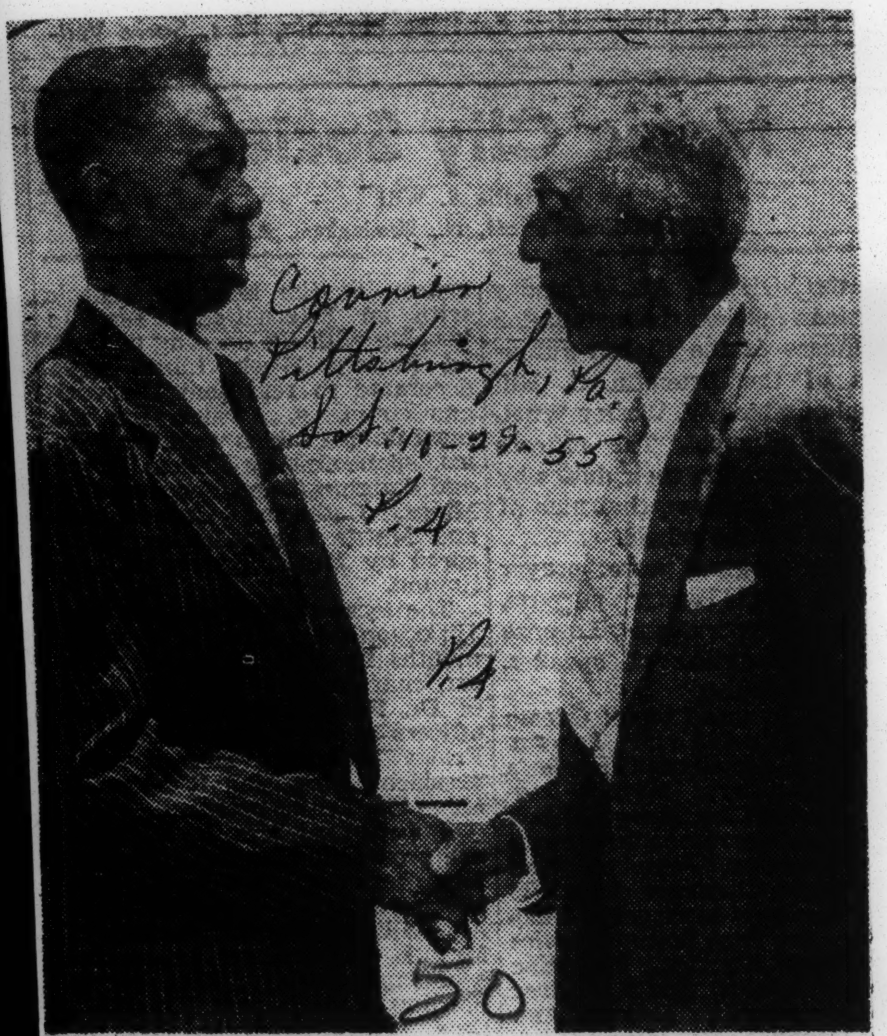
Pittsburgh Pa

Negro Ridge

Rw

50 1955

THORNTON, MISSISSIPPI



Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.
Sat. 11-29-55
P. 4

P. 4

50

ALL-NEGRO TOWN—Recently propelled into the limelight in Mississippi was Charley Haskin, left, president of the Milestone Corporation near Thornton, Miss., an all-Negro settlement where each resident has a paid for home with seventy acres of land. The project was started on a $15,000 loan from the Government several years ago which has since been paid in full. Standing at the right is Henry Burns, secretary of the Milestone Corporation.

89-1945

Mississippi

200

Winstonville, Miss

Ousted Officials Refuse To Vacate

Atlanta Daily World

WINSTONVILE, ~~Miss.~~— (SNS)—R. J. Lucas, mayor of this all-Negro town and his fellow municipal office holders refuse to abide by the choice of the 23 electors who voted to oust them recently.

Governor Thomas L. Bailey said Saturday that he would wait until after the Christmas holidays to discuss the status of the government in this town of 320 inhabitants with the attorney general. He has been asked to appoint an interim government. However, the incumbent officials said they will refuse to vacate their offices if the governor does appoint an interim government. 12-28-45

A notice has been filed of an appeal to the Supreme Court from Judge Ed Green's order to recall the election by which the officials were ousted. Atlanta, Ga.

City Government Is Cause Of Turmoil To All-Negro Town

~~The Birmingham Age-Herald~~

~~Birmingham, Ala~~

WINSTONVILLE, Miss., Dec. 20—(AP)—This all-Negro town, incorporated Feb. 16, 1917, by proclamation of the then Gov. Theo G. Bilbo, was in something of a turmoil tonight over its municipal government. 12-22-45

Some time ago a number of qualified electors petitioned the city government for a recall election on all city officials on the ground they had "acted contrary to the will of the people."

The city officials refused to call such an election and the electors appealed to Boliver County Circuit Court, where Judge E. H. Green ordered that a recall election be held.

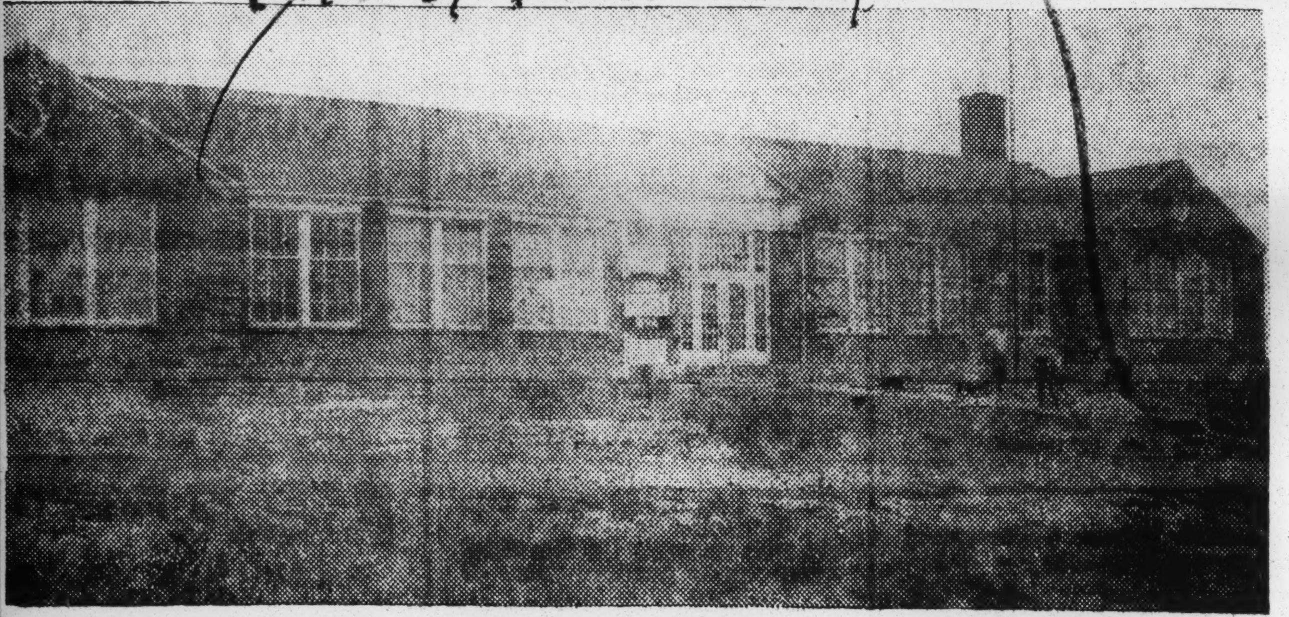
Yesterday the qualified electors, all Negro, voted 27 to [illegible] for recall of the six officials: R. J. Lucas, mayor; L. G. Similton, Bertha Watkins and S. M. Marshal, aldermen; S. M. Jones, treasurer, and Ike Powell, marshal.

The electors then requested Gov. Thomas L. Bailey to name a new slate of officers, but B. A. Green, Negro attorney of Mound Bayou, another all-Negro incorporated town, requested the governor to withhold action pending receipt of an opinion from the attorney general on the constitutionality of the municipal recall act of 1914, under which the election was held.

Today the attorney general's office announced no opinion on the matter will be issued because the matter is "presently before the court." 12-22-45

Call 9-13-39 Kansas City, Mo

School In Missouri All-Negro Town



This is the high school situated on Lix avenue, in South Kinloch Park, Mo. known as the Belle sub-division. It represents the hard work of the people of this community.

The building is of modern design and is situated on a campus of about 5 acres of ground which is now being graded for walks and shrubbery.

The school has an all-Negro board of education.
an all Negro board of education.

218

Colored Town Near St. Louis Applies For Incorporation

St. Louis, Mo.—Leading citizens of the thriving South Kinloch Park community are confident that at an early date they will become an incorporated town. At a recent mass meeting held there, they voted to apply for articles of incorporation. If the application is approved by the proper authorities, the community will be another addition to the regularly incorporated "All-Negro" towns of the United States.

Nashville Tenn

At present South Kinloch Park is a community of more than 6,000 colored people with quite a number of places of business, including a coal yard, many stores and restaurants and a drug store. There are 15 churches of which 9 are Baptist, 3 Methodist, and one each Episcopal, Catholic and Church of God.

They have a splendid Voluntary Fire Department and the undertaking establishment is one of the finest operated by colored people.

The citizens of the community work in the surrounding community for the most part but many have good jobs in St. Louis, which is 15 miles south. They have a large high school and good teachers.

A colored postmaster and several deputies sheriff, are also included among the advantages of which the citizens can boast. They do not have a jail. Lawbreakers are carried to a jail five miles away when they ~~have~~ committed serious offenses.

One of the leading Baptist preachers of the town is Rev. Wash Yates who has a congregation of 280, it was reported by the Rev. J. T. Ridley of Nashville, who was in the town recently, conducting a religious institute.

Rev. Yates is a former citizen of Nashville, and was a member of the Jackson Street Baptist Church of that city. He went to South Kinloch Park 17 years ago and has prospered in church work, Rev Ridley stated. He has relatives still in Nashville, among them being, Mr. Isaiah Whitfield, Mr. Andrew Yates, and Mr. Henry Yates who are his brothers, and Mrs. Gertrude Jackson, sister.

Rev. Yates has played an important part in the movement to get the 46-year-old South Kinloch Park incorporated.

4-16-48

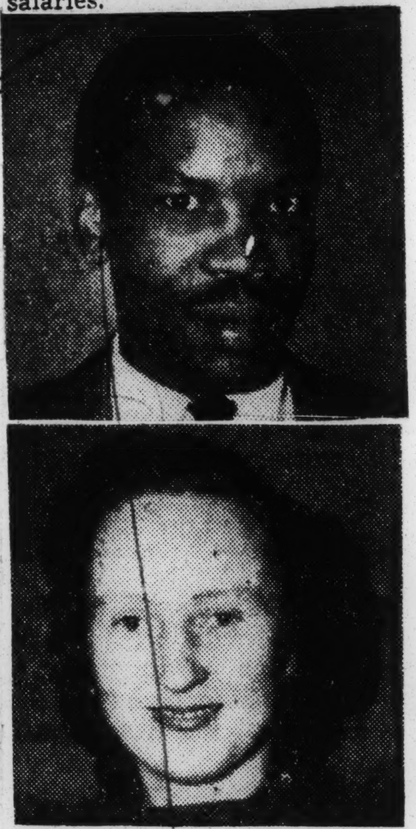
New All-Negro Town Has No Laws Yet

St. Louis, Mo. (U.P.)—The all-Negro city of Kinlock has appointed law enforcing officers but the city hasn't any laws to enforce.

The Board of Aldermen picked a police commissioner and six patrolmen for the newly incorporated community near here, but the board as yet hasn't gotten around to drawing up any City ordinances.

Louisville Ky

Mayor Willie Head says the appointees will serve on a volunteer basis until the City can collect some taxes to pay their salaries.



Here are two newlyweds with domestic trouble already. They're 27-year-old Prince Sevetse Khama, heir-apparent to the Bamangwate tribal throne in Bechuanaland, Africa, and Ruth Williams, 24, London office worker. The prince is leaving for Africa today to explain to his uncle, the regent, why he became the first member of his tribe to wed a white girl. He met his bride in London, where he went to study law. Khama says he'll either come back, or send for her, "whatever happens."

All Negro Town In Missouri To Give Up Charter

KINLOCH PARK, Mo. — (ANP) — This little all-Negro town of Kinloch Park will no longer be an incorporated city if the ruling of the County court made at Clayton last week is allowed to stand.

Black Dispatch
Okla City, Okla.

Acting on a petition sighed by 2,044 of the town's residents the court ordered the town disincorporated. It was incorporated less than a year ago.

Sat 6-18-49

Mayor Willie Head, elected only last April, Opposed the court's action. A petition signed by 1,225 citizens favors incorporation.

The twon has a population of more than 8,000 persons, and a total of 2,235 taxable residents. Persons opposing the city's charter say the city's assessed value was $1,112,000, which would bring in only $8,000 a year revunue, while it would cost Kinloch Park $30,000 a year to operate as a city.

Atty. Adrian Bushman, who represented the opponents of incorporation, was appointed trustee in charge of disincorporation of the city.

Towns and settlements - 1930

New Jersey

106

Arrest of White Couple Brings to Light Town of Non-whites Over 100 Years Old

Lawnside, N. J.

CAMDEN, N. J., March 7.—A town without a single white person, thought to be the only one in the northern part of the United States, last week was brought to notice by the arrest of a white couple just outside of the town limits for alleged violation of the prohibition law. The arrest was made in Lawnside. The borough was incorporated in 1926, although it is more than 100 years old.

The town was organized by freed slaves before the war of Rebellion, to which others came after the conflict ended. It is located seven miles from Camden and is a mile and a half in width. The population is estimated at 2,000 persons, who own property valued at $500,000.

The mayor, council, police department of six members, and two volunteer fire companies are maintained. There is also a magistrate and Mrs. E. A. Roberts is postmistress. A $60,000 public school and a park are maintained by the borough taxpayers.

Defender
3-8-30
Chicago, Ill.

Towns and Settlements - 1931

New Jersey

111

NOT NEGRO TOWN, NEW MAYOR OF LAWNSIDE SAYS

Afro-American

1-10-31

Baltimore, Md

Thomas N. Rivers Declares that Both Races to Live There

INVITES BUSINESS

Progress of Borough in Five Years Cited

LAWNSIDE, N.J. "This place is not a Negro borough, and we want the people of all races and of good character to live here," said the new mayor, Thomas N. Rivers, as he was inducted into office on January 1 at the public school building, to succeed James Hemming.

"In organizing this community," he continued, "the state did not designate it as the colored borough of Lawnside, and we must not refe to it in that manner."

Regarding the development o thrift and industry in the little settlement, the mayor said: "We mus do everything possible to encourage business enterprises to settle her."

Ephriam J. Scott and Douglas Brown took oath as members of the council at the same time, the latter having been re-elected. The borough's new clerk is Richard A. Williams; Albert E. Burling, white, was appointed solicitor.

Albert Young was appointed to fill the unexpired term of Councilman Charles Cooper, resigned. Mrs. Eva M. Rivers was appointed collector and treasurer to succeed Mr. Rivers. Frederick M. Meade is the new auditor. Other members of the council are: John H. Brown, Helena C. Webb and John B. Sadler.

While the community of Lawnside is more than 100 years old, it has only been a borough for five years. During that time sidewalks have been placed, streets improved and lighted, state and county taxes paid and many new homes built.

The Lawnside park, managed by William Willis, attracts thousands of people every summer from Philadelphia and South Jersey. There are three churches here, a Home for the Aged Colored People of the Delaware Conference, a building and loan association, and several stores. The borough's progress compares favorably with that of surrounding communities, and indications are that the community will grow in business and general improvement.

Lawnside has sixty white residents but none of the children attend the public school. Recently efforts have been made to get the borough to pay the expense of educating the white boys and girls who go to school outside of the borough. The board of education refuses to allow the expense because of the high standard maintained at the local school.

Another Negro Town Developing in N. J.

New York Age

11-21-31

By Rev. W. A. Allen

New Brunswick, N. J. — New Brunswick Highland is a Negro suburban development of about 250 people. It is four miles south of Bound Brook, and four miles north of New Brunswick. It has three churches and a public school. The homes are neat and are built on large lots, and have all modern improvements. There are two neat and clean business places.

New York

N.Y.

Community meetings are held each Friday evening at the home of Alexander Woodson. The Rev. W. A. Allen of Plainfield was the principal speaker at the last meeting, urging political unity.

The town has only two sick people, Mrs. Moore, who is paralyzed, and a Mrs. Jenkins, who is improving nicely.

New Jersey

Towns and Settlements-1933

In All-Colored Town Whites Fight for Separate School

Afro-American

2-4-33

Balto. Md.

LAWNSIDE, N.J.—Aid has been extended by organizations and individuals of Haddonfield to efforts of a white settlement of thirty some families within Lawnside to secede from the colored town of Lawnside and set up a separate borough to be known as Woodcrest.

The secession movement was bared last week when whites of Woodcrest sought to have a bill introduced in the Assembly at Trenton giving them the right to set up the new borough. It was also revealed that a school fight lay back of the secession movement.

On January 14 in the auditorium of the Memorial High School of Haddonfield a minstrel show was staged by white Odd Fellows and the proceeds turned over to the Agenda Civic Association of Woodcrest to keep that section's illegal separate school in operation.

ADVERTISE IN PAPERS

Advertisements of the affair read as follows: "A situation has developed at Woodcrest Heights that gives the residents there the choice between two alternatives, either to send their children to the public school at Lawnside where all the scholars are colored and the teachers the same, or to conduct a private school of their own.

Board Threatens

"The parents of these children decided that it was best to try the private school and they have been holding such a school in the chapel of the Presbyterian Church at Woodcrest with volunteer teachers, but the Board of Education of Lawnside advised them that unless they secured a teacher with a state certificate, the board would be compelled, if they, the residents of Woodcrest Heights, did not send their children to the public school of Lawnside, to prosecute."

The advertisement ran on explaining it ungrammatical language the Woodcrest situation and asking a "goodly sum." The announcement also appeared on the front page of a white weekly paper in Haddonfield.

The bill to make a separate borough of Woodcrest was not introduced as scheduled at last Monday night's session of the Assembly in Trenton. Neither has Lawnside sought to make any organized protest against the bill.

Towns and Settlements - 1936

New Jersey.

Town Founded for Runaway Slaves Still Ruled By Their Offsprings

Journal and Guide 8-2-36

Free Haven In N. J. Has Historic Significance

LAWNSIDE, N. J.—WPA writers of the New Jersey State Guide Book have cited this all-Negro borough, the only one in the State, and one of two in the United States was worthy of visitors' attention.

But they are less concerned with the prosaic present of Lawnside on the Atlantic City Railroad than with the beginnings of the town that was Free Haven on White Horse Pike.

There was historic significance in that name.

Back in 1840 Ralph Smith of Haddenfield, a Quaker with an antipathy proper to his sect for slavery, decided to build a refuge for runaway black men.

Its Government Placed In Their Hands Years Ago

The Civil war was fought and won. Then came the freedmen swarming into the refuge Ralph Smith had prepared for them back in 1840.

In 1926 the borough was incorporated. The 1930 census lists 1,224 Negroes and 155 white persons. What that laconic table does not record is that they live in amity.

The Negroes offered the white population representation on the Board of Education and the Council. But the white men said:

"The Negroes have managed this community well. We are content."

So here is the town in which government is the black man's burden.

He bought a tract eight miles out of Camden on White Horse Pike, parcelled it into lots and sold them at small cost to escaped "chattels."

The he nailed up the bright-lettered name of his town. It read: "Free Haven."

The Negroes came. They liked the name of the town. And it lived up to its name.

Then a troop of runaways arrived from a little hamlet in Maryland, and gave its new home the name of its old village in the South, "Snow Hill."

Then came the railroad, tacking onto the station the banal name of Lawnside. The Negroes just let it stay. The "road" could call their town what it pleased. To the inhabitants it remained Free Haven, and to some, Snow Hill.

Lawnside
Free Haven

Lawnside, All-Negro Community In New Jersey, to Hold Centennial

By E. J. BONDE

LAWNSIDE, N. J.—At the regular monthly meeting of the mayor and council of Lawnside the council unanimously endorsed Mayor Ephraim J. Still's plan for the civic development of Lawnside, under the newly issued charter of the Lawnside National Development association, Inc., a project which proposed to bring about the greatest possible advancement of this oldest Negro incorporated town in the country.

Lawnside has the unique distinction of being the only Negro town with complete autonomy in the East, where the Negro enjoys the full franchise.

This beautiful little community, situated seven miles from Philadelphia, on the White Horse pike—the main highway to Atlantic City, has a population of approximately 2,000.

Invitations are being sent to public-spirited citizens in the adjoining cities to meet with Mayor Still and his association of Lawnside to elect officers for the National Development association, which has for its principal objective the development of a national cultural and economic center in this all-Negro town.

A historical pageant, in three episodes, with a cast of 100 persons, dramatizing the life of the community, "Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow" (Rev Frank D. Dixon of New York city, author and director) will be presented at Camden Convention hall the first week of February, and in Washington during Negro History week, then subsequently in Baltimore, Philadelphia, Wilmington, and New Yor city...culminating in the Centennial program proper in July, at Lawnside.

Negro enterprises, large and small, are to be represented in this unique celebration, with an expected attendance of 100,000 people from the million or more Negro population of 150-mile area.

Concessions will be let February 1 for this great educational religious and economic program.

ALL COLORED TOWN DOES BETTER THAN BIG CITIES; SHOWS TREASURY BALANCE

Defender 1-13-40
Chicago Ill.

LAWNSIDE, N. J.—Before a crowded council chamber, Ephraim J. Still, mayor of Lawnside, the oldest incorporated town in the east for Negroes, delivered his annual message here last week, on the occasion of the installation of newly elected councilmen.

In this report the mayor cited he progress made within the last ew years, mentioning especially, the condition of the city's finances. Lawnside occupies a high rating in the State of New Jersey, having paid all county and state obligations, and now has a balance of $10,000 in ts treasury. In commenting upon his situation the city solicitor said: "Lawnside could rightfully be termed a model municipality, creditable anywhere in the United States, in that its budget is well-balanced, and the town is run on the strictest economical and business basis."

IS 100 YEARS OLD

Big things are being planned for Lawnside, because the year 1940 marks the hundredth anniversary of this community. (It was laid out as a town for colored people in 1840) A mammoth Centennial Celebration is being planned for July 1 to 31. Rev. Frank D. Dixon of New York City, was one of the principal speakers before the Mayor's Council and official family on this occasion. He was appointed, by the Mayor, as director of the Centennial project.

This program, scheduled to run from one to two months, will call together all the forces of interest of Negro life, including the educational, religious, industrial, and economical in general. The Centennial, while consisting largely of the first outstanding fair promoted by our group, will have for its principal object the planning and launching of a constructive program for the fuller development of our national life.

Outstanding leaders in various fields of activities will be programmed; and an exhibition of the achievement of the Negro in all the sciences, arts, and industries will be displayed Lawnside is expected to be host to at least 300,000 persons on this occasion.

OLDEST NEGRO TOWN HOLDS ANNIVERSARY

DEC 28 1940

Amsterdam News
New York N.Y.

LAWNSIDE, N. J.—America's oldest Negro community celebrated its Centennial Jubilee Exposition this past Thursday at St. Luke's Church here this week. Prominent speakers who took part on the program were: R. H. Merritt, real estate broker, President of the Philadelphia Negro Chamber of Commerce; Dr. E. C. Smith, Minister of the Wyland Temple Church, Philadelphia; Anthony Mayo, Author and Historian of Jersey city; Hon. Ephriam J. Still, Mayor of Lawnside, N. J.; Mrs. A. Thomas, Philadelphia General manager of Poro Manufacturing Company and others.

Lawnside, N.J.

When Ford Speaks There Is Hope

Story of Lawnside, New Jersey—The Town and the People Who Live in It

By Gilbert Day

Did you ever hear of Lawnside, New Jersey?

Did you ever hear of a municipality in the United States with a Negro Mayor, Negro City Council, Negro Board of Education?

And if you did, do you know how such a community fares?

Daily Worker

SEP 25 1940

In this article, we are going to tell you in as few words as possible, words without any ribbons tied to them, about that town, and the people who live in it.

We are telling you about this town in New Jersey, where 90 per cent of the people are Negroes, for three specific reasons. First, this town governed by Negroes, and governed well, is about to celebrate its 100th anniversary. Second, after 100 years, it is more than appropriate to examine the life of a people, and what has happened to them. Third, James W. Ford, Communist candidate for Vice-President, is speaking to the people of Lawnside, this Friday evening, at the Camden, N. J., Labor Temple.

New York

N.J.

The three reasons are really one.

Why They Called It 'Free Haven'

Once upon a time, Lawnside was called Free Haven. But that was a long, long time ago. Then it was a free haven. Exactly 100 years ago, in 1840, Abolitionists led by Ralph Smith, in the struggle against chattel slavery, established this little town as a station on the underground railroad. The countryside, nine miles away from Camden, was wooded, not heavily populated, and the few people there were Quakers, most of them poor, who were sympathetic to the Abolitionist cause. So off White Horse Pike, this small community was established, where escaped Negroes from the South could safely stop in the early morning hours, rest, eat, go to sleep, and then in the dark of the night be passed on to the next station on the underground railroad.

So a few Negroes settled there, hoping for a new life, and named it Free Haven.

During the Civil War, with just a handful of people living in Free Haven, 46 men volunteered for service in the army of Abraham Lincoln.

Daily Worker

There was courage and hope in the hearts of men. These men were Negroes.

New York

After 100 years, what has happened to this town, with a population now of close unto 1,500? Why has the standard-bearer of the Communist Party, James W. Ford, chosen this small town as such an important station in his itinerary?

SEP 25 1940

There are thirteen million Negroes in the United States. Is this town and these 1,500 a symbol? Maybe. Let us see.

N.Y.

A short while ago the Lawnside Borough made a report to the Camden Board of Freeholders. This report tells a story. This story, we would like to pass on to you. Remember this is an official report:

The average weekly wage for Lawnside residents, in gainful employment, is $6 for an average of three dependents per household.

Domestics in employ of nearby communities average for a 72-hour week, $5.

Almost 70 per cent of Lawnside is dependent on relief or WPA (not much WPA or relief these days, either).

Lawnside birthrate is equal to its deathrate.

SEP 25 1940

Three-fourths of Lawnside homes have no running water or bath. Two-thirds have no electric light.

Some Eloquent Vital Statistics

And many homes with large families, says the municipal report, "sick and invalid, or other unfortunates are really untenantable with leaking roofs, rotted timbers, fallen plaster, sunken foundations and flooded cellars . . . and the nursing service for the needy has recently been discontinued."

Lawnside has the highest tax rate in the state. The average amount of taxes collected is only 17.7 per cent and with the increasing inability to pay taxes, the tax rate is increased every year. Reports the Borough Council: "having been denied work opportunities in the large basic industries of Camden County there is no source of income. . . . Ninety per cent of the population being Negro, discrimination or failure to hire men because of their color has a directly adverse bearing on an integral political unit of the state."

Oh yes, there are large industries nearby.

Daily Worker

RCA-Victor, hiring 10,000 workers will not hire Lawnside residents; New York Shipyard with 9,000, will hire none; Campbell Soup with 3,000 hires one. These three large corporations with 22,000 workers on their payroll employ hundreds of workers from Pennsylvania, Central New Jersey and even Maryland, but from Lawnside, only nine miles away—one Negro.

New York

Once upon a time the town was called Free Haven.

N.Y.

The Philadelphia and Reading Railroad came in and called it Lawnside.

Lawnside is now a symbol of the double exploitation from which the thirteen million Negro people suffer under capitalism.

But the Lawnside men and women are a proud people.

Daily Worker

So James W. Ford is going there!

And because no available hall is large enough in Lawnside, the Communist Vice-Presidential candidate is going to speak nine miles away in Camden, this Friday, Sept. 27 at the Labor Temple. And the people from Lawnside are coming in buses and cars, and many will walk to hear their candidate.

New York

N.Y.

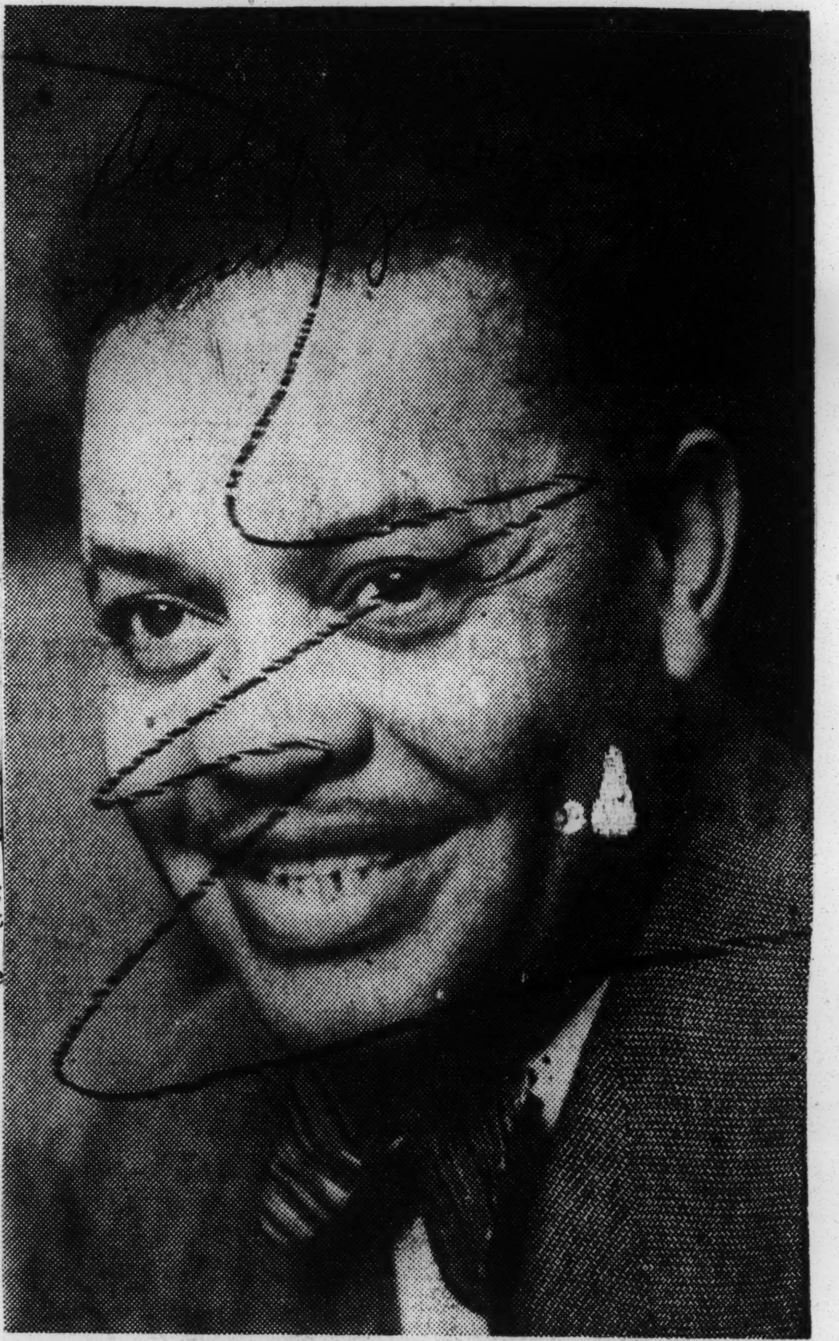
So on the 100th Anniversary of the founding of Lawnside, the station on the underground railroad, there is again hope and courage in the heart of men.

SEP 25 1940

For James W. Ford is going to speak in Camden, New Jersey, the old home town of Walt Whitman, the good, gray poet of the Civil War.

And the proud men, women and children from Lawnside, once Free Haven, are going there this Friday to hear the message of jobs, security, peace and full equal rights for the Negro people.

SEP 25 1940



JAMES W. FORD

194 (Free Haven, N. J)

73-1941

NEW JERSEY

Argus
St. Louis, Missour

OLDEST NEGRO TOWN WINS $33,924 SCHOOL FUND DUE FROM ITS WHITE ANNEXERS

Aristocrats Got Their Section Free On Promise to Pay School Fee But Did Not

7-

By William H. Ferris

MAY 30 1941

NEW YORK, (C) — The Camden, N. J. Courier began a two column article on the front page Tuesday, May 6th with the following startling headlines: "Lawnside is Victor Over Haddon Farms — Latter Ordered To Pay Borough $32,924.54 in School Bonds of Yesteryear."

Toward the beginning of the article, it reads thus: "The revelations came as the Lawnside Board of Education won a judgement for $32,924.54 to pay principal interest and bonds issues many years ago to finance construction of a school in that municipality.

Judge V. Claude Poliner directed a verdict in favor of the school board and against Haddon Farius, developers of the farm into one of the residential showplaces of Haddonfield".

These are the facts in the case of Lawnside, N. J. which will hold its centennial celebration and to National Negro Jubilee from May 30th to Oct. 1st, 1941 is the oldest Negro town in America. These are the facts in the case. When centre township was cut up into municipalities between 1921 and 1925, Haddon Farms an aristocratic section found itself in the Negro Municipality of Townside, whose population is 98% Negro and which elects a Negro government, Mayor, Town Council, Board of Education, Health, Welfare, Police and Fire Depts.

MAY 30 1941

This aristocratic white neighborhood could not see it self under the government of colored people, and they were able to have the section annexed to Haddonfield, an all white community, under a promise to pay the then remaining school bonds, amounting approximately to Lawnsides. But after succeeding in getting out of Lawnside, they had continually refused to pay the entire balance of the school bonds issued in 1915 to build a school building and in 1921 an addition to the Lawnside schools, but only Haddon Farins' share. And the decision of the court, Tues. May 9th, giving the school board of Lawnside, which Leonard Benson is president and Rutledge Brayant, clerk, giving a colored township a decision over white group is an outstanding victory for the colored people. The real fight that resulted in the $32,924 for the school board late Mayor Epliraim J. Still, immediately of the incorporation of Lawnside, shortly of the Board of Education. He served in that office for 5 years. He later became Mayor of Lawnside unrelenting in his fight until January of this year.

MAY 30 1941

Lawnside, N. J.

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Mizpah, N. J. Contemplates A Colored Town

BEAUTIFUL HOME SITE NEAR ATLANTIC CITY OFFERS AN EXCEPTIONAL OPPORTUNITY TO COLORED PEOPLE

The Afro-American 8-24-23

LOTS CLEAR OF INCUMBERANCES

Baltimore, Md.

Investigation by Reputable Business Man Reveals Fact That Title To Property Is Guaranteed by Big Title Insurance Company

(By Henry F. Arnold)

Mizpah, N. J., Aug. 20.—An innovation in MIZPAH, N. J., is being undertaken, which by far transcends anything that has even been planned in this section of the country, and it is being planned with a spirit to help amleiorate the condition of colored people who are migrating North in large numbers because of prevailing conditions in Dixie, coupled with an exigency which has arisen by reason of labor shortage in the North.

The father of the idea is Mr. N. Rathblott, who is the sole owner of the developments called Mizpah, Newtonville, Centre Park, and Elwood Square, N. J., and a reputable business man of Philadelphia, Pa.

In an interview with Mr. Rathblott he informed the writer that his purpose for offering the property for sale to colored people is the sequel of the crowded conditions in large cities, which works imposition upon those who hope to make the North their permanent home.

Being a real estate man of much experience, Mr. Rathblott has gained first hand information from the itinerants that are migrating Northward in quest of semi-freedom and better wages and finds that their chief grievances are the lack of proper accommodations for themselves and families and inflated house rent.

Feeling that he would render invaluable service to those who wished to become home owners and make small profit for himself, beautiful Mizpah, New Jersey, was placed on the market with the hope of it becoming strictly a colored town patterned after Mound Bayou, Miss., and Boley, Okla.

INVESTIGATION SHOWS THAT ALL PROPERTIES BELONGING TO MR. RATHBLOTT ARE CLEAR OF ALL INCUMBRANCES

One of the crowning features of the land which is being sold at Mizpah, is that it is absolutely free and clear of all encumbrances.

In order to verify and ascertain the correct status of the land, a number of prospective buyers employed Mr. Warner T. McGuinn, a reputable colored attorney, of Baltimore, to search the records, and he found that the titles were guaranteed by the Guarantee Mortgage and Title Insurance Company, of Newark, N. J., and that high references were given by the People's Bank of Philadelphia of Mr. Rathblott's just dealings. Mr. McGuinn was also employed by these prospective buyers to ascertain the standing of Mr. Rathblott, and he found that Mr. Rathblott ranks among the leading business men of Philadelphia and that the property was clear of all encumbrances.

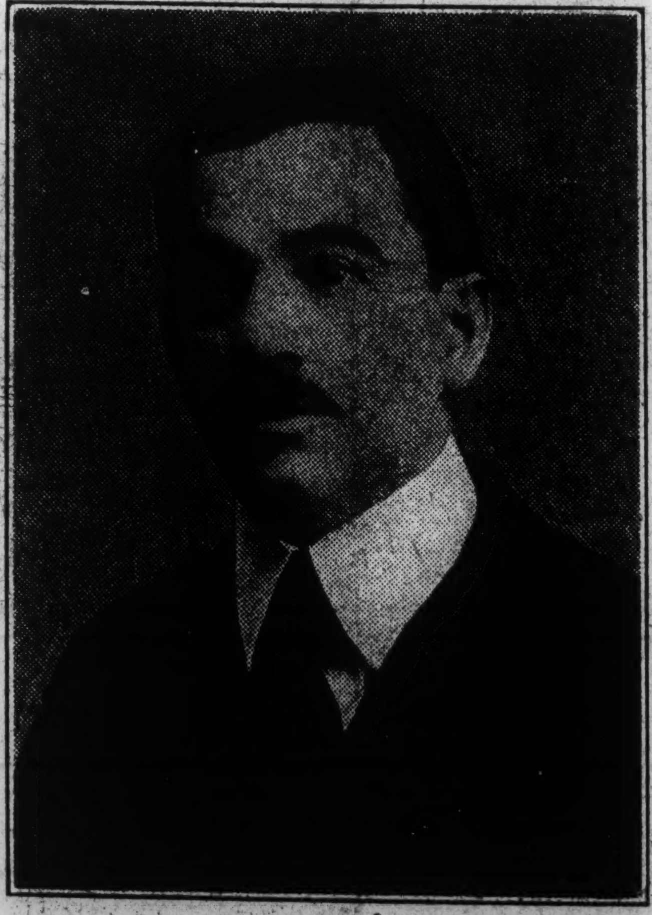
This is sufficient to show that there is none of the old "bunco" game attached to the proposition. The majority of the prospectors bought land and others are buying daily.

A BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF MIZPAH

Mizpah is situated in an ideal location, twenty miles from Atlantic City, the "Nation's Playground." Commutation tickets from Altantic City cost the nominal sum of 21½ cents per trip, and from Philadelphia 34½ cents, thereby bringing these two cities within easy reach of Mizpah residents.

Mizpah and Newtonville is one large tract of land containing about 2,200 acres. Mizpah is subdivided into lots 25 x 100, whereas Newtonville is laid out in 5-acre farms. Newtonville is surrounded within a walking distance of three railroa stations, with freigh sidings, whereas Mizpah has two station right on the property All the streets in Mizpah are 50 feet wide excepting the boulevards, which are 10 feet wide. It is a fac that in 1921 the tow built a new and large school. Since that tim the growth has been s tremendous that a ne school is being buil now. Mizpah alread has an Electric Powe Plant and clothing factory, stores, post-offices American Express, an a good many inhab tants. Mays Landing the Atlantic Count Seat, is only 6 mile away from Mizpah, an has cotton mills, bric

N. RATHBLOTT



The man who built Mizpah, N. J, Mr. Rathblott's first job paid him a salary of $9.00 per week. He saved his earnings and entered the pie business. His success proves that honest dealing is the best in the long run.

yards, clothing and dress factories, and also a beautiful lake for boating and fishing.

According to the writer's knowledge, any investigation about Mr. Rathblott's developments show that everyone is safe about their investments, and that they can freely purchase without fear, and we are sure that our race will find him as our investigation shows.

This guarantee included in the contracts given by Mr Rathblott to the purchasers is as follows:

1. He **GUARANTEES** that the LOTS and FARMLAND have an absolute clear and perfect **TITLE.**

2. He **GUARANTEES** to return all MONEY you paid for the LOTS and FARMLAND you buy, if they contain any marshes or swamps.

3. He **GUARANTEES** that upon completion of payments—on the lots or farmland purchased—a FULL COVENANT and WARRANTED DEED will be delivered from the office of the seller, without any further cost or charge whatsoever.

4. His **TITLE** is GUARANTEED by the **GUARANTEE MORTGAGE and TITLE INSURANCE COMPANY** of NEWARK, NEW JERSEY.

5. In the event of the DEATH of a purchaser after 50% of the payments have been made, the seller will deliver or cause to be delivered, without further charge, a deed to the purchaser's heirs or other beneficiary designated by purchaser.

6. In case of misfortune to the purchaser so that the purchaser cannot meet with the payments as provided for, the seller will extend a reasonable time.

7. He **GUARANTEES** that in case any of the LOTS or FARMLAND are in any way unsatisfactory, the seller will EXCHANGE them for lots or Farmland of EQUAL VALUE at any time before EXECUTION of DEED.

8. He further agrees that after the purchaser has made the first payment, upon prior notice to the seller and the payment of One Dollar, may assign or sell his contract to any person, and that such person shall succeed to all rights and privileges.

9. The purchaser WILL NOT HAVE any TAXES, ASSESSMENTS OR INTEREST to PAY on the lots or farmland UNTIL the EXECUTION of DEED.

If you desire, you may write direct to the main office, 1003 N. Seventh Street, Philadelphia, or to the branch office, Mr. Wm. Jones, District Manager, 17 Guilford Avenue, Baltimore, Md.

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~~Nat Post~~ Mizpah, N.J.

National Baptist Convention Sponsors Rural Development North

The National Baptist Convention, headed by Dr. L. K. Williams of Chicago, has manifested an interest in the development of Mizpah, a town in New Jersey just a few miles from Atlantic City and Philadelphia. This interest came after an inspection of the land, both city and farm, which is rapidly growing into a city of promise, offering at once small farms for those who like agriculture and city life without the congestion of so many of the Northern centers.

Chicago Whip

On last Monday a group of Chicagoans headed by Rev. Branham, met Mr. N. Rathblott of Philadelphia, who is the owner of the land. Complete details were submitted to those present and the advantages of the location and community growth were outlined by Mr. Rathblott. Arrangements are being made to take a party from Chicago to see the town in the near future. The National Baptist Convention has already made plans for the building of a fifty thousand dollar church at Mizpah and bids from certain industries for a location have been considered.

12-5-25

Chicago

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New Jersey.

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SAY NEGRO TOWN IN JERSEY PROGRESSING

Courier

10-26-35

Pittsburgh, Pa.

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., Oct. 24—(ANP)—The community at Mizpah, N. J., founded a decade ago by N. J. Rathblott and in which lots are owned by many ministers and fraternal leaders is steadily making progress according to its promoters and officials of the National Baptist Convention, some of whom have made investments there, and in which organization although Jewish, Mr. Rathblott holds a life membership. Mizpah is located near Atlantic City and Mr. Rathblott points out that it now boasts schools, a railroad station, express office, churches, and electric power plant, a clothing factory and a steady growth in population.

SAY NEGRO TOWNS IN JERSY MAKES PROGRESS

Negro Star

10-25-35

Wichita, Kans.

Philadelphia, Pa., —(ANP)

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Rel

Say Negro Town in Jersey Makes Progress

Tribune

11-2-35

Washington

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Ex-Mayor of Negro Town Dies After Short Illness

Eagle

LAWNSIDE, N. J.—(UNP)—James Hemmings, 63, former mayor of his city, died Saturday after a three-week illness of pneumonia.

Mr. Hemmings served five years as mayor and was reelected for a third time as tax collector on Nov. 5.

11-29-35

He was a member of the old Center Township board of education and organizer and first president of the Lawnside Fire company and Lawnside Civic association. He had lived here 29 years.

Kansas City

Rel

Towns and Settlements-1937

New Jersey

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"JACKSON WHITES" TALK FOR THE AGE REPORTERS

150-Year Old Negro Town

In Ramapo Mountains

Age

Scene of Poverty

5-8-37

By LUDLOW W. WERNER

"I woudn't go up there if I were you. They're liable to meet you with shotguns."

New York, N.Y.

That was the advice of Mrs. A. F. Chillson, wife of Rev. Chillson, of Hohokus, N. J., when two reporters for The New York Age called Friday in an effort to interview her husband about the "Jackson Whites" of the Ramapo Mountains for whom he is the principal spiritual advisor.

Mrs. Chillson gave the advice after decrying the "terrible stories" which the daily papers printed after an interview with her husband who is seeking a state investigation into living conditions of the Negro residents of the 150-year old community up in Ringwood, N. J.

A story is a story, and so after thanking Mrs. Chillson for the directions to the place, your reporters drove away to their objective some 15 miles away.

Live in Company Village

Arrived at the country store of the Ringwood Company, operators of the 20,000 acres in the Ramapos and owners of the 110 houses in which the "Jackson Whites" live, inquiry for Lovell Lawrence, manager, brought the information that he was somewhere around—giving your reporters ample opportunity to investigate the story first printed last week by the World-Telegram that the "Jackson Whites" constitute "an economic and ethnological horror in New Jersey's Ramapo Mountains."

After driving slowly up and around through the various dirt and loose gravel roads that make up the streets in this company-owned village, and taking various pictures, we ventured into the home of a Mrs. Milligan, mother of nine children. She very apologetically said that she had been so busy she hadn't had time to tidy up the home but she allowed us to enter. She answered all questions very pleasantly.

"I don't know what we would do without the company," she voiced when asked what her rent was for the five-room house in which eleven people live. The Milligans pay $5 for the house which is similar to several score others. All are shingled, most of them double houses, and there is running water piped into them—the lone vestige of modernity.

No Racial Problem

Contrary to reports, there is no racial problem here. The problem narrows down more to an effort to live and survive rather than to give way to superiority complexes and isms. The whites are no better off than the Negroes and in their squallor have a common bond—they are all struggling to live. The Jackson Whites—why they should be so called no one could explain—are race conscious and proud of their Negro ancestry which most of them date back beyond the Revolutionary War when their forebears were brought over as slaves by the Dutch settlers.

Most of the settlers are devout worshippers, there being an average Sunday school attendance of 125 children and adolescents at the Episcopal Church pastored by Rev. Chillson. There is a fair-sized public school with three teachers and some fifteen miles away in Butler is a high school where higher education may be obtained by the more ambitious who are given free transportation by bus.

Girls Marry Early

The girls for the most part are married off when they are 14 and 15 On the whole, the Jackson Whites are happy and care-free and contented with their lot in life—content to live and work for the Ringwood Company, buy at the company store against credits issued to them and pay back to the company rentals ranging from one cent per month for unemployed householders to $7.50 per month for those who are employed on the company project.

What of the future? Well, they confess, the problem of living is all that they are worried about. They are fatalists believing that what is in store for them will come.

Greenville, Tenn., Sun
May 4, 1937

TUESDAY, MAY 4, 1937.

NOT ALL IN TENNESSEE

Propagandists to the contrary, not all half-wits are in Tennessee if this account of the New Jersey product is true:

The State of New Jersey is at last coming to the aid of the Jackson-whites of the Ramapos, fast dwindling fom disease and poverty.

The Rev. A. F. Chillson of Hohokus, pastor of a Protestant Episcopal church here, said today that William J. Ellis, Commissioner of the State Department of Institutions and Agencies, has assigned an assistant to investigate conditions in the hill-billy colony, forty-five miles from Broadway.He hopes the investigation will lead to an allocation of State or Federal funds to provide a health center for the poverty-stricken residents who are classified as Jackson-whites.

The term originally applied to the descendants of the Negroes, whites and Indians who settled as fugitives in the Ramapo Mountains from Hook Mountain in Nyack as far as Budd Lakes in Sussex County beginning in the early 1700's.

Some of the present inhabitants bear the stamp of the mixed races, but others have poverty as the only likeness to the hybrids. The Rev. Mr. Chillson estimates there are nearly 1,000 Jackson-whites in this borough and its vicinity, but other persons familiar with the territory think that figure is too high.

Haven For Indian Fugitives

The story is that Tuscarora Indians, fleeing from the German settlers in North Carolina, joined the Iroquois Tribe and settled in the hills of lower New York and Northern New Jersey, years before the Revolutionary War.

During the Revolution, Hessians, desert- from the British who had hired them, also made their homes in the Ramapos and about the same time a man Jackson entered the picture.

He is said to have been employed by the British to import 3,500 women to entertain the soldiers. By devious methods, Jackson got most of the number from England and the rest of the quota he made up from the West Indies.

The women were held as captives just below the present Greenwich Village in Manhattan and they became known t oNew Yorkers of the time as "Jackson Whites" and "Jackson Blacks."

At the end of the war, driven from New York, they settled in the Ramapo hills and began to intermarry with the fugitive Indians and Hessions. Small groups of Italians, French and Dutch came later and they too intermarried. The result was an ethnological puzzle, impossible to understand today by looking at the descendants. Many have the complexion of mulatoes, but in one family may be seen children with the high cheekbones of the Indian and then there may be a child whose physical charactistics appear to be those of the white race.

The Rev. Mr. Chillson, however, is not concerned about the origin of the Jackson-whites. His job, he said today, is to educate them to the benefits of sanitation while waiting for the tate to provide facilities for improving their health. They are stubborn and superstitious, and generally resist the efforts of those who are seeking to aid them.

The Jackson-whites lived rather well until the Ringwood iron mine closed down ten years ago. How they make a living now is a mystery, for only a few have work as farmers, handymen or WPA laborers.

Sanitary conditions are deplorable, with most of the colony living in filthy hovels, according to the minister. Due to malnutrition and filth many are afflicted with a skin eruption known as impetigo. Physicians are difficult to get and the infant mortality rate is 130 for 1,000, one of the highest in the State.

Most of the mothers depend on the attentions of an unlicensed mid-wife, who has only the most essential instruments, none sterilized. The children lose their teeth early because of improper food and lack of dental care, and many are forced to go barefooted in the dead of Winter.

Get Clothing Cheaply

The Rev. Mr. Chillson has collected used clothing from churches in Northern New Jersey and sells them to the hill folk, a woman's dress for 5 or 10 cents, a man's suit for 15 cents, a man's overcoat for 25 cents and a woman's coat for 35 cents. He has obtained this clothing by touring with motion pictures of the Jackson-whites.

The minister makes no secret of his vexation with the State's failure to provide aid.

"The State has seen fit to send only one child hygiene nurse here on the average of one and a half day a week," he said. "I have constantly pounded at the authorities to provide a full-time welfare worker who is a trained nurse, and last year a report on conditions was sent by a committee of physicians to Dr. Julius Levy, director of the State Bureau of Maternal land Child Health, but nothing came of it."

Towns and Settlements - 1921.

New Jersey.

MAKING RED BANK GROW.

RED BANK N. J. REGISTER

MAY 25, 1921

WHAT A COLORED MAN IS DOING TO DEVELOP THE TOWN.

Last Week Alfred Spinney Bought a Brick Store Building on Shrewsbury Avenue for $8,000—He is Building Three Houses.

Alfred Spinney of Beech street, who is the largest owner of real estate among the colored folks of Red Bank, added to his possessions last week by buying from Trevonian Bennett the brick building on the west side of Shrewsbury avenue, near River street. The building is two stories high. The first floor is divided into two stores which are rented by Suraci & Bruno for a butcher business, and by Nathan Cohen for a dry goods and clothing business. Living rooms are on the second floor.

The property is 35x120 feet and is about fifty feet north of the northwest corner of Shrewsbury avenue and River street. Mr. Bennett bought it about two years from Amelio Ribustella for $7,000.

Mr. Spinney has done more for the real estate development of Red Bank than any other member of his race. His latest contribution to the growth of the town is three new houses, one on the north side of Beech street, west of Shrewsbury avenue; one on the north side of St. Mary's place, and one on the south side of Sunset avenue, near Leighton avenue. These houses are in course of construction. Wilson Brown is the contractor.

Each of these houses will have six rooms and a bathroom and will be provided with water and electricity. Each house will be 18x28 feet and will cost about $2,200. The lower stories of the houses will be enclosed with weatherboards and the upper stories will be shingled. Mr. Spinney is building the houses as an investment.

For more than twenty years Mr. Spinney has been employed as head chef on Brookdale farm at Lincroft. He does not work for Lewis S. Thompson, the owner of the farm, but for Harry Whitney, who leases a large part of the property to train horses. The farm has had many different lessees since Mr. Spinney has worked there, but he has held his job continuously all these years. In addition to acting as chef he also runs a boarding house on Brookdale farm for the jockeys and other employees. The house is provided by the owner of the race horses, but Mr. Spinney supplies the food and other things needed by his boarders.

It was as a young man in very reduced financial circumstances that Mr. Spinney began his work on Brookdale farm. He was provident and frugal. He invested his savings in Red Bank real estate, and it was about ten years ago that he first began these investments. Since then he has bought twenty houses, most of which he sold at a profit. In addition to these twenty houses he has built fifteen houses and two halls, besides the three houses which he is now constructing. The halls are on Beech street. They were sold to lodges and fraternal organizations shortly after they were built.

Red Bank - (Community) N.J. -

Towns and Settlements -1938

New Jersey

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Afro American 2-12-38

Sourland—Like "Tobacco Road"—Is Queer Region

TRENTON, N.J.

Mystery figures in the Lindbergh kidnap drama whose homes lie in the shadow of the strange Sourland Mountain district — Amandus Hockmuth, Millard Whitted and William J. Allen—have by now received their reward checks from New Jersey and have retired into that almost impenetrable silence of the Sourland hills.

But once again attention of the world has been momentarily fastened on the odd assortment of "Tobacco Road,' settlements hidden in and near the Sourland and forming a sort of foggy second background to the crime of the century, a background which is peopled by odd clans of Negroid strain about which the world knows little.

Allen himself is a native of Virginia, but he has lived so long in this region that he has taken on the silence of its natives and speaks rarely if at all. This is proved by the fact that most of the long long statements attributed to him by the press are really the comments of his loyal wife rather than of his silent self.

* * *

BUT THE STAMP of the mountain fastnesses certainly lies on aged Hockmuth and odd Whitted; and there may be mor than rumor to the effect that Whitted's family is akin to one of these mixed clans.

It is a fact that another figure in the case, a resident of Flemington, James Sutphen, who guided the police in their search through the unchartered Sourland range, was colored. He died in the midst of the search for the child and he was a member of the great clan of the Jackson-Whites.

So, if you want to see a colored background to the Lindbergh drama you can go back further than William Allen and first explore that colony of mixed Hessian-Indian and colored and though you will not solve anything you will know something more about the environment in which the crime occurred.

* * *

THE JACKSON-WHITES are one of four major New Jersey mixed clans, the other three having nothing to do with even the background of the Lindbergh case. The others are the "Piney's" who inhabit the pine regions of Burlington County and who are of mixed Irish bloods; the "Moors of Delaware" who haunt Cumberland County and are of mixed Spanish, Caucasian and African slave blood; and the aristocratic, clannish residents of Gouldtown near Bridgeton whose womenfolk are rated the most beautiful in the State.

There are about 5,000 Jackson-Whites in the State, scattered among the colored and white population but about eighty families stick to their hidden settlements in the Rampano and Sourland ranges. They gain their name from the fact that slaves and free colored folk in the distant past were known as "Jacks" Some other aborigines of the clan have drifted to Hillburn, N.Y and to Ringwood, N.J. They intermarry, lead a life which parallels that of the "Tobacco Road" drama.

The "Moors of Delaware" vary in feature from perfect Caucasian features to plainly evident Negroes and the klan mingles little with either whites or the regular American Negro. There are about 100 families in Cumberland County.

The Irish-Indian-Negro "Pineys" excell in the oddity of the names of their communities—Hog Wallow, Sow's Crotch, Froggie, Bessie's Brook, Sweetwater Run, Flat Belly Run, Cranberry Hall, Green Tree, Turkey Lawn—and their ranks have been reduced. They work in cranberry bogs, make baskets and axe handles and bootleg liquor in their crude homes. Their luxuries are clocks and automobiles and their amusements include parties in the silence of the countryside.

* * *

DIGNIFIED GOULDTOWN is in a far different class and far higher one than the other three Seven by three miles in area Gouldtown consists of two sections, Gouldtown and Piercetown The Goulds and Pierces dominate it.

History says this aristocratic and good-looking group is 200 years old and descended from John Fenwick, chief proprietor in colonial Salem County. He is credited with forbidding his daughter, Elizabeth, to share in his estate unless "the Lord opens her eyes to see her abominable transgressions against Him, me and her good father, by giving her true repentance and forsaking that Black which has made the ruin of her."

Many descendants wed whites and moved away but several hundred still remain and are skilled artisans, their lives centering around three institutions — family, school, and church. There are two churches in Gouldtown, the M.E. dominated by the Pierce clan, and the A.M.E. dominated by the Goulds. Gouldtown is in the center of a farm community.

Which facts lead far afield from the Lindbergh case, yet through study of intricate and forgotten angles of that drama one is led perforce into the Jersey's Forgotten Clans.

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New York

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N.Y. **WORLD**

SEP 11 1927

Negroes Laugh at Bar Harbor Colony

No Prominent Member of Race in Harlem Has Considered Project

By Lester A. Walton

HARLEM Negroes whose names have been prominently mentioned in connection with a proposed Negro colony at Sorrento, near Bar Harbor, Me., brand as false published reports that they are in any way interested in such a project.

Some are resentful over what they characterize as the "unwarranted and promiscuous use of their names," while others regard the incident as a big joke. All disclaim having had personal knowledge of the would-be race colony in Maine until they saw accounts of its possible future existence in the newspapers.

Not one of the persons reported to be "considering a site in the Maine colony" recalls having been asked to become financially interested. They deny having discussed the matter with those identified with the colonization plan at any time.

Some do not hesitate to declare publicly that the publishing of sensational stories about Negroes invading the exclusive section not far distant from Bar Harbor savors of a plot to dispose of certain Maine realty holdings at a big profit.

"I have never been approached by any one nor been spoken to by any one relative to becoming interested in a Maine colony for Negroes," indignantly declared Dr. P. M. H. Savory of No. 119 West 131st Street, a Vice President of the Victory Life Insurance Company. "The whole thing appears absurd. I was out of town during August and did not return until a few days ago. My name was erroneously used without justification. When I heard about it I was angry and first thought of writing and demanding a published retraction.

"To my way of thinking, it might be another publicity scheme to frighten white property owners in and about Bar Harbor into paying fancy prices for real estate on the market for sale. I think it is a shame that the names of disinterested Negroes should be given such undeserved and uncalled for notoriety. It certainly is not ethical, nor is it fair."

Paul Robeson, a favorite of the footlights, relates: "I was interested to learn a Negro colony near Bar Harbor was under contemplation. I knew nothing of it until I read articles in the daily press. My name was used without authority. No one has ever talked to me about buying in Maine. At this time I have not the slightest idea of acquiring property anywhere, and certainly not so far off as Maine, although it is a very pretty place."

Mrs. A'Lelia Walker, whose Villa Lewaro, Irvington-on-Hudson, N. Y., built by her mother, the late Mme. C. J. Walker, is a show place of interest, thinks it ridiculous to associate her name with Bar Harbor, Sorrento, or any other colony for Negroes. She has a town house in Harlem and the Villa Lewaro, which she thinks is enough.

Earl Dancer, producer of "Africana," and husband of Ethel Waters, says he has not the remotest idea of establishing a home near Bar Harbor; that the property in question is too far away from Broadway and Harlem. He admits having discussed the subject, but at no time with any intention of making an investment; in fact, he has never considered the undertaking seriously.

Harry Wills and Florence Mills, also referred to in print as potential members of the Maine colony, are out of town. Miss Mills has been starring abroad in the "Blackbirds" for two seasons and is still out of the country. For several weeks Harry Wills has been touring the South, where he is appearing in boxing exhibitions.

John E. Nail of the real estate firm of Nail & Parker, No. 145 West 135th Street, confirms the report that he has an option on 1,200 quarter acres at Sorrento, Me., on which he plans to establish a high class Negro colony. His statement follows:

"The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has nothing to do with the project, as some seem to think. I doubt if the officers knew about it until they read it in the newspapers. I worked out the deal Tuesday before last at Great Barringon."

Towns and settlements - 1926

New York.

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Freetown, Hampton Slave Centre, Now Making Landowners Rich as Realty Boom Hits East End

Amsterdam News

1-16-26

New York N.Y.

EAST HAMPTON—A little more than 100 years ago East Hampton landowners freed their slaves This was in pursuance of an act of the State Legislature. From first settlement year, 1649, slaves had been used for working the fields, house servants, male and female and huntsmen. 'There were white slaves or bondmen, white slave boys or bound boys," Negro slaves and Indian slaves. They were bartered, sold and exchanged like cattle, they were punished, but they were not treated cruelly, as cruelty is reckoned today. The whipping post punishment of criminals in the State of Delaware, however, is mild compared with the flagellations of old times.

When the slaves were freed they were set apart in a little hamlet of poor quality land, sand and light soil, near East Hampton village. The spot is appropriately called "Freetown." This land, a century ago, considered of small value when everything was valued from an agricultural standard, is making the descendants of the manumited slaves wealthy. With the land "boom" property along the highways has risen from 50 to 100 per cent. in value.

Freetown Near Three-Mile Harbor.

Freetown is on the main highway which leads to Three-Mile Harbor and Maidstone Park. The spots are the fresh and salt water resorts of the town. The localities are near where Otto Kahn, Clarence H. Mackay and others have leased or bought lands for game preserves, and where out of town capitalists, now owners of wide lands fronting the bays, are to develop property. Consequently $1,000 to $2,000 for an acre of land on a highway's not an unusual price to be paid. Such figures mean riches to the humble colony at Freetown.

Sylvester Dering, one of the first settlers of Shelter Island, writes Jonathan N. Havens, January 15, 1786:

Ship Passengers Sold as Slaves.

"On the 6th inst. a brig belonging to New York bound from Hamburg to New York was cast away in a violent storm on the south part of Gardiner's Island or rather Ram Island. She had about forty German passengers on board, most of which are to be sold for slaves, for a few years, then to be free in this land of liberty. The cargo, I believe, will be saved."

The Gardiners, of Gardiner's Island, the first place settled by an Englishman in New York State, had many slaves, some of them Indians. At the Island a church and rectory were maintained. The Indian women raised the corn and crops. They were the best agriculturists. The Indian men were skilled in taking the whale and in breeding horses and sheep.

At Freetown descendants of these Indian slaves and Negro slaves still live. There are also descesdants of bondmen in the town. There were for about 150 years after settlement of the Hampton colonies three classes of inhabitants: the proprietor who owned land and common land; the freeman, who owned land, had a vote, but did not own in undivided common land, and the slave Indian Negro or white man. A freeholder could vote without being a church man in the Hamptons. In Southold he had to belong to the church.

The Rev. Thomas James, first minister of the Maidstone or East Hampton flock, kept slaves, and his "Indian servant, whom I bought of his guardians, being an orphan one year old," was held as bonds boy for "nineteen years more, in 1673, until he shall be twenty-five years." John Kirtland sold the Indian boy and there was a stipulation in the agreement that when the boy became twenty-five years old he was to receive his freedom and ten pounds current money, a suit of clothes, etc.

The records of the Hampton towns abound in instances of slavery and the practice was quite general.

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INQUIRER

Scarsdale N.Y.

MAR 23 1928

Reconciliation Trip To Harlem March 27

To Visit Many Churches and Other Cultural Points of Negro Population in N. Y.

Mrs. H. M. Lydenberg of Park road will be one of a group which will take a special trip to Negro Harlem arranged through cooperation of the Church Women's Committee of Race Relations and the Greater New York Federation of Churches as one of a series of Reconciliation Trips on the afternoon of Tuesday, March 27. This section is described as the capital of the Negro world in culture, wealth and power and contains the greatest aggregation of Negro people anywhere in the world,—200,000 in one square mile.

The people taking the trip will see among other points of interest the new St. Mark's Methodist Episcopal Church at 550 St. Nicholas avenue, the Abyssinian Baptist Church at 128 West 138 street where overflow audiences number from five hundred to one thousand. The collections at this church are said to average one thousand dollars a Sunday. The institution is equipped with a Community House where up-to-the-minute methods, equipment and trained workers are employed.

Liberty Hall at 120 West 138 street which was built by the Universal Negro Improvement Association for the emancipation of Africa, which was founded by Marcus Garvey will be the next place to visit, followed by a trip to the library, which contains one of the best collections of Negro literature. At the New York Urban League, at 202 West 136 street the women taking this trip will hear Ira Reid, industrial secretary, speak

Towns and Settlements - 1931

New York.

SAYS PROPERTY WILL BECOME TOO VALUABLE FOR PRESENT OWNERS

Courier 3-28-31 Pittsburgh Pa.

Jim O'Connor, Whose Editorial, "Hail Harlem," Created Sensation, Is Interviewed by Calvin.

Harlem, NY.

By FLOYD J. CALVIN

NEW YORK, Mar. 26—Much excitement has been caused in Harlem realty circles by the forthright prediction of one of the Hearst editors that the Negro is destined, within the next few years, to lose Harlem. Big uptown improvements, according to the editor, cause him to state in a long editorial that "property will become too valuable for some of the present owners to hold it."

The editor who makes this prediction is Jim O'Connor, head of the Harlem and Bronx edition of the New York Evening Journal. When talked to in his office at 500 Mott avenue, at 149th street, in the Bronx plant of the Journal where the Harlem-Bronx edition is printed, Mr. O'Connor told a Courier reporter he has made a thorough study of Harlem real estate and feels he is justified in the position he takes. Mr. O'Connor has been editor of the Harlem-Bronx edition of the Journal for four years. Before that he was city editor of the Harlem and Bronx Home News. He is not a member of any of the chambers of commerce, he said, but is a native New Yorker, having been born in the "tenderloin district," and has lived in Harlem and the Bronx for many years. The circulation manager of the Harlem-Bronx edition said evidently the editorial caused a stir, as there were several calls for that particular edition, and they completely sold out. The circulation of the Harlem-Bronx edition of the Journal is 140,000 daily. Roscoe Conkling Bruce, resident manager of the Paul Laurence Dunbar apartments in Harlem at 150th street and Seventh avenue, considered the editorial of such significance that he had copies mimeographed and distributed to each of the 511 tenant-owners in the Dunbar apartments.

The editorial, which was headed "HAIL, HARLEM!" and carried the sub-title of "A Great Community Now and a Greater Community Soon," said: "Harlem is on the eve of its greatest development. It is destined to become a section of tall business buildings and high-class apartment houses. The two principal reasons for this are the Tri-Borough Bridge and the George Washington Memorial Bridge. These improvements will mean to Harlem what the Queensborough Bridge has meant to mid-Manhattan.

"With the completion of the George Washington Memorial Bridge next year, which will bring hundreds of thousands of people and steady streams of traffic from New Jersey across 181st street and down into Harlem, *property will become too valuable for some of the present owners to hold it.*

"The Tri-Borough Bridge will permit Queens residents to reach the shopping center on 125th street quicker and more conveniently than the shopping centers in Brooklyn. When this span, with a terminal on E. 125th street, is finished in a few years, land in Harlem will grow even more valuable.

"And it will become too expensive for many of the tenants now here to continue to occupy it. Where can some of the current owners get money to pay taxes on such real estate and put the property to its fullest use?

"Old apartment houses in Harlem will have to be renovated or torn down and rebuilt—because the property is worth too much to be occupied by ancient structures. That will attract a higher type of tenants. Thirty-four old buildings are now being modernized, and that's only a starter.

"Harlem, centrally located, with every possible transit facility, will grow into one of New York's leading commercial centers in the near future.

"The city-owned St. Nicholas Avenue subway will be in operation very soon, and that will make St. Nicholas avenue a business thoroughfare. The opening of this line, with a station at 125th street, will give this crosstown artery the best transit facilities in uptown New York.

"Extension of the New York, Westchester and Boston Railway to 125th street by tunnel, an improvement that is bound to come, will form an important link in the transportation lines uptown. At present the railway ends nowhere in the South Bronx.

"Eugene A. Walsh, chairman of the Real Estate Committee of the Harlem Board of Commerce, points out that 125th street soon will rival 34th and 42nd streets—because the trend of business is northward. With 59th street now developing as a commercial center, the next jump will be to 125th street, the next river-to-river thoroughfare uptown.

"There are twelve banks on 125th street. Banks are located where there is business to be done. Progressive business men who sell good merchandise at reasonable prices can get their share of this business by telling the public what they have to offer.

"The public improvements coming to Harlem will create entirely new conditions here. Civic workers who have studied the possibilities of this section know that. All the loyal residents and merchants of Harlem need is a little patience."

This editorial is considered by many Negro real estate operators as true. It is significant that at 135th street, the heart of the Negro section, only ten blocks north of 125th street, where there are twelve banks, there is only one bank. There are only two banks in the entire Negro section of Harlem, and it is generally conceded that most of the business in these banks is done by whites.

When Mr. O'Connor was asked if he thought Negroes had made any improvements in Harlem property since they took possession, he said only such improvements as were natural and inevitable. It is notable, however, that before Negroes took over Harlem, Seventh avenue was considered one of the most beautiful streets in the city, with shrubbery and small parks that were well kept in the center of the street. Today many of the trees have been cut down, and the parks are in a run-down condition. Before Negroes came to Harlem the apartment houses were in a well kept condition, with clean halls, stairways, lights on the front, rugs on the floors, curtains at the windows, elevators running night and day, switchboard operators, etc. Now, however, it is quite a contrast for some of the old residents who knew the old Harlem. Elevators are unkempt, no curtains at the windows, poor if any telephone service, lights broken, paint badly needed, odors in the halls, etc. The Paul Laurence Dunbar apartments are generally said to be the cleanest apartments in Harlem.

Mr. O'Connor's statement that the land will become too valuable for Negroes is borne out by the history of business further down town. Al Smith, president of the Empire State Corporation, owners of the Empire State building, the world's tallest structure, says he remembers when what is now the fashionable fifties was pasture land, and when Harlem was considered "wild country," where business men went to hunt. In the last few years, however, according to Porter & Co., white real estate operators in 125th street, the center of the city's population has continued to move uptown, until it is now in 125th street. It is also significant that some of the city's biggest industries have recently located in Harlem. A motion picture studio is in 146th street near Seventh avenue, where motion pictures are made. The Interborough Rapid Transit Company and the New York Railways Company have their terminals in 147th street between Seventh and Lenox axenues. The New York Edison Company, several big laundries, several piano manufacturers, and other companies are located in Harlem on the Harlem river.

It is also significant that in the last two years traffic lights have appeared on Seventh and Eighth avenues. Negroes generally do not realize that traffic on these avenues is now actually so heavy the lights are a necessity. This traffic has increased because of uptown improvements enumerated by Mr. O'Connor.

It is said the biggest improvements in property Negroes in Harlem have made have been in church buildings. They have erected three new church buildings (Mother Zion, Abyssinia and St. Mark's) that are a credit to any section of the city. But other than these buildings, practically no improvements have been made. The Harlem Center building at Seventh avenue and 135th street is the only office building erected for Negroes in ten years. Several apartment houses have been erected, but most of them were erected by whites. It is pointed out by Negro real estate operators that Negroes do not have businesses of sufficient importance to support the property they tenant. The Mme. Walker building in 136th street was about the finest uptown tenanted by Negro businses, but it is now a city health center. One Elk lodge has erected a new hall, and the Savoy ballroom erected a new building. The Renaissance Casino, and Theater Building was also built in Harlem by Negroes.

GROWTH OF BLACK MANHATTAN.

N.Y. Age

Descanting upon the story told by the census figures, to the effect that New York is steadily growing as a Negro city, the New York Herald Tribune heralded the fact that "Harlem-in-Manhattan is the greatest Negro city in the world today and the greatest Negro city in history." That is a pretty sweeping characterization, but the Herald Tribune backed it up with the following recital of history:

7-18-31

> Harlem is a mushroom growth, but the New York Negro looks back with pride on a long participation in the history of Manhattan Island. Eleven Negroes landed in New Amsterdam in the first year of its colonization, 1626; and by the end of that century 2,170 Negroes lived in New York—3 per cent of its population. It was a free Negro, Samuel Fraunces, who gave his name to Fraunces' Tavern, where General Washington dined and where New Yorkers are proud to eat today. New York City had free schools for Negroes before it had free schools for whites. And in recent years New York has been the home of many of those superb Negro artists who have written new chapters in the history of art in America—men like Charles Gilpin, who won his fame here in "The Emperor Jones"; Richard Harrison, whose Lord God Jehovah has startled onlookers at "The Green Pastures"; Countee Cullen and Langston Hughes and James Weldon Johnson and other poets and novelists, singers like Roland Hayes and Paul Robeson, scores of others known wherever the international language of art and music reach.
>
> New York, N.Y.
>
> To such men Harlem is, or has been home; and New York is to Negroes all over the world today something of what Rome was to the old Roman world and Athens in its heyday to Greater Greece. To some New Yorkers "Harlem" still means only a region of dark-skinned night clubs and a lodging-house for elevator boys and household servants; others are proudly aware that Harlem is the capital of a race and the seat of a culture.

All of which goes to show that James Weldon Johnson did a good job when he wrote "Black Manhattan," and that the Herald Tribune has an editorial writer who is not afraid to dig up his facts from reliable sources, and then expatiate upon them with dignity and imagination. But to head the editorial, "The Capital of Africa" looks like staking out too big a claim. Africa is a vast continent of undeveloped resources.

Describes Canine as Ruler of Streets of Community

News

By T. R. POSTON.

HARLEM has gone to the dogs.

9-23-34

This is not an expose of the horrors of night club life nor a discussion of the political situation. It is a literal statement of fact. Harlem HAS gone to the dogs.

New York

N.Y.

King Canine openly rules this community. Possibly in no other section of the city is there such a variety of these animals as in this district. Scotch terriers, daschunds, poodles, pugs—insolent, pop-eyed Pomeranians, stately, graceful greyhounds—Airedales, bulldogs, Dalmatians, pointers—majestic great Danes, pugnacious mastiffs, disdainful water spaniels, and even an occasional bloodhound, roam the streets of Harlem daily with a freedom which was seldom realized by any ancient monarch.

Canines with charge accounts at the leading butcher shops — dogs wearing harness, the cost of which would outfit some ragged street urchin for a couple of years—pedigreed poodles, whose ancestry can be traced further than the family history of their owners, promenade the avenue and gaze with studied disdain upon the poor lesser humans who must worry with the eternal struggle for existence.

Pooches, mongrels, and quarter-breeds, whose ancestry cannot be traced beyond the nearest alley, look scornfully down from apartment windows, stroll the streets with a little less pride than their blooded kinsmen, but likewise regard the groveling humans with a thinly-veiled contempt. Depressions may come and depressions may go, but Canine remains King in this community.

Babies Versus Dogs.

Dogs are really an integral part of Harlem. In a community where the instinct of motherhood is often stifled by the omnipresent threat of tripled expenses—in a community where companionship is at a premium because of the high ratio of women to men—in a community where few, if any, apartments are safe from unlawful entry in the absence of their tenants, it is only natural that dogs should occupy a prominent position.

Many a would-be-mother, who has avoided maternity because of its incumbrances, inconveniences, or economic embarrassments, lavishes her pent-up affection on her dog. It is no unusual sight to see scores of husbands strolling the avenues every evening—big men with little dogs, massive dogs with diminutive masters, or toil-soiled workers with mincing mongrels—exercising their pets with a care that is seldom shown human offspring.

Women, of course, own the greater number of dogs. The Pomeranians, pooches, and terriers of Harlem enjoy an existence that the average infant never dreams of. Special food, devoted attention, medical examinations, are but a part of the luxuries lavished upon these pets—luxuries, however, which are really inexpensive when compared to the demands of motherhood.

The Faithful Guard.

A dog does not require close attention through a prolonged period of infancy as does a child—it is not necessary for someone to watch the pet while its owner goes about the daily task of earning bread—its expenses do not mount yearly as it advances in age—and regardless of size, a dog is always ready to rout an intruder by its barking.

The multiplicity of canines in Harlem has created certain disadvantages, though. Chief among these is the question of community health. Although there are very few diseases which are communicable to humans from these animals, there are several conditions which are aggravated by these pets. Many vermin-ridden apartment houses could lay the blame on their domesticated inhabitants.

A more serious and aggravating situation is the lack of restrictions placed on these animals in the matter of sidewalks and streets. It is surprising that a city which prides itself on the efficiency of its street cleaning staffs and regulations regarding the tenants and owners of apartment houses should allow the indiscriminate spoilation of its sidewalks by these animals.

Another menace to the community is the ever-rising toll of persons bitten by dogs on the streets of Harlem. Scores of people are injured weekly in this manner. Children, adults and occasionally owners are treated daily at the hospitals as the result of being attacked by some canine. Although each of these attacks usually spreads a "mad dog" scare, there are really few cases of rabies in the community. The biting is more often done by some poor, frightened, stray animal.

Stray dogs are an ever present menace to Harlem. Because of the rapid shifting of the population of this district, hundreds of animals are either lost or ruthlessly deserted on the streets of the community yearly. These bewildered, frightened, and often starving mongrels account for 75 per cent of the scares which have their foundations in dog bites.

A "Mad" Dog Story.

Recently all upper Harlem was thrown into consternation when a rumor spread through the streets like wildfire that a mad dog has dashed into the schoolyard of P. S. 5 and had bitten seventeen children and a woman who tried to protect them from the frothing brute. Mothers rushed pell mell to the school, scores stormed the West 136th street police station where the children were being treated, and frantic parents created a turmoil which disrupted the whole community for several hours.

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THE PORTO RICAN IN HARLEM.

Police Commissioner Mulrooney, who knows his Harlem, having made an enviable record as precinct captain when in charge of the 135th Street Police Station, in an address to the Young Men's Christian Association of the First Presbyterian Church, Fifth avenue and Twelfth street, described the increasing numerical growth of the Porto Rican in the section to the East and West of Fifth Avenue and North of 110th street. In his recital of this new racial element in the city's population Commissioner Mulrooney commented upon the unfavorable light in which it is placed by others, saying:

Age 3-19-32

> "There are West Indians, low class Mexicans, low class Argentinians, low class Peruvians. They also came from the East Indies and India. All of them, however, when arrested, invariably are 'Porto Rican.' In fact, the incoming of these people is responsible for a new racket in that section of the city—the Porto Rican birth certificate. We have come across a number of groups lately in Harlem who were selling fake Porto Rican birth certificates for $30 each. These people are going to become quite a problem before so very long."

New York, N.Y.

In recent years Porto Ricans have taken advantage of citizenship conferred upon them by the United States and emigrated from their native land to settle in New York City, seeking larger opportunities. Harlem seems to have been the most popular objective. In 1928 an old and established local real estate firm wrote to the editor of an influential daily, protesting against the Harlem invasion of what he termed "an objectionable element." The assumption was that reference was made to the presence of the Negro, but investigation by a representative of the newspaper revealed it was the Porto Rican. A survey showed that within from four to five years more than 40,000 Porto Ricans had moved into the territory between Third and Manhattan avenues, and between 110th and 116th streets.

Not long after the complaint of the real estate firm a clash occurred between Jews and Porto Ricans, described in the daily press as a "race riot," and a few Sundays later a big meeting of Spanish speaking people was held at Lenox Casino when an organization was launched to further their economic interests. The charge was made by speakers that the hostility of Jewish merchants had been provoked over the Porto Rican's determination to patronize stores conducted by members of his own group.

Since 1928 many hundreds of newcomers have taken up residence in what is now known as the Porto Rican section of Harlem, which is gradually assuming a more important and commanding status. It affords much gratification to be able to point to the friendly relations existing between Negroes and Porto Ricans. Like most people of Latin culture, Porto Ricans have no pronounced racial prejudices. It is not uncommon for them to marry Negroes and they have given loyal support to Negro aspirants for political office.

The Negro and the Porto Rican have a common interest in the future progress and welfare of Harlem. In many respects they are temperamentally the same. One does not seek to exploit the other. One does not harbor racial prejudices against the other. Both races should energetically work together for a bigger and a better Harlem.

PICTURING HARLEM.

There are times when well-meaning public-spirited citizens, in appealing for financial aid on behalf of some worthy Negro cause, draw so gloomy and alarming a picture of conditions which they seek to ameliorate that they unintentionally and unconsciously give the impression that the situation is general rather than one affecting some but not all the people. The communication of Arthur C. Holden, Chairman of the Executive Board of the New York Urban League, published in the daily press, is a case in point. He writes:

Age 3-19-32

"New York's Negro population is rapidly approaching a desperate crisis. In the closely packed district North of Central Park more Negroes are living than there are people in the whole city of Syracuse. Instead of being a complete city with prosperous manufacturing enterprises and a well-to-do community. Harlem is a district of wage-earners dependent for their incomes upon the rest of the city and paying out of its earnings for food, shelter and clothing

New York, N.Y.

So-Called 'Porto Ricans' Forcing American Negro Out of Harlem, Declares Police Comm'r Mulrooney

Age 3-19-32

New York, N.Y.

That Harlem is being invaded in vast numbers by so-called Porto Ricans to the extent that the Negro is being forced into other sections, was the astounding declaration made by Police Commissioner Edwin P. Mulrooney in an address to the Young Men's Association of the First Presbyterian Church at Fifth avenue and 12th street, on Thursday evening, March 10, and that Harlem is changing rapidly from a Negro into a "Porto Rican" city.

"These Porto Ricans", he said, are coming into the area to the east and west of Fifth avenue above 110th street from every corner of the earth.

"They are West Indian, low class Mexican, low class Argentinian, low class Peruvian. They come from the East Indies and India. All of them, however, when they get arrested invariably are 'Porto Rican'. In fact, the incoming of these people is responsible for a new racket in that section of the city—the Porto Rican birth certificate racket.

"We have come across a number of groups lately in Harlem who were selling fake Porto Rican birth certificates for $30."

These people, he declared, are forcing the American Negro into other sections, "and and these new citizens of Harlem are going to become quite a problem before so very long."

Porto Rican Trend Now In Harlem

Courier

Pittsburgh, Pa

3-19-32

NEW YORK CITY, Mar. 17.—Police Commissioner Edward P. Mulrooney, speaking last night before the Young Men's Association of the First Presbyterian Church, at Fifth avenue and Twelfth street, said that Harlem was changing rapidly from a Negro into a "Porta Rican" city. "These Porto Ricans," he said, "are coming into the area to the east and west of Fifth avenue above 110th street from every corner of the earth.

'They are West Indian, low class Mexican, low class Argentinian, low class Peruvian. They come from the East Indies and India. All of them, however, when they get arrested invariably are 'Porta Rican. In fact, the incoming of these people is responsible for a new racket in that section of the city—the Porta Rican birth certificate racket.

"We have come across a number of groups lately in Harlem who were selling fake Porto Rican birth certificates for $30 each.' These people, he declared were forcing the American Negro into other sections and "these new citizens of Harlem are going to become quite a problem before so very long."

N. Y. EVENING POST

NOV 10 1932

Village in a City

"Downtown" Needs to See That Harlem Is More Than Jazz Source

Some young citizens of Harlem, and below, Mrs. Arthur C. Holden, member of the board of directors of the New York Urban League, one of nine organizations to participate in next week's benefit performances by Ruth Draper at the Ritz Theatre.

By RUTH SEINFEL

It is a community within a community, a village within the great city. Its existence is attested by visitors from "downtown," whose costume for exploring expeditions consists usually of the scented fur wraps, the top hats and white mufflers of evening dress. And the echo of its life comes downtown in the form of throbbing, sobbing, wailing strains of jazz. But its life, the close, interrelated life of a country village strangely transported to the paved streets, the apartment house honeycombs of a metropolis.

It seems an odd phenomenon to Mrs. Arthur C. Holden that New York can so completely ignore the village which centers about Lenox Avenue and 135th Street, the Negro village of Harlem. Twelve per cent of the city's population is contained in that village, and yet, except when we dance to its music or go to its night clubs or hire its women to wash our clothes and cook our dinners, we know little and apparently care less about the lives of our colored fellow New Yorkers to the north.

We become aroused about the housing situation and begin to tear down odorous tenements on the East Side, while the New York Negro continues to crowd two and three families into one small apartment in order to meet his rent, which is comparatively the highest in the city.

We worry over more hospital facilities and convalescent care, and in Harlem men and boys are still discharged from the hospitals in plaster casts to go back to their lodging houses and manage the best they can until they are able to look after themselves once more.

We take measures to lower the tuberculosis rate, the death rate from disease and from maternity, and we are proud of the sharp drop in these rates that we have brought about. But the Negro still suffers sickness and death several times more than the white city-dweller.

We exert ourselves to embrace the racial groups within the city to make them comfortable members of the city population and to make their children happy and useful citizens. But our Harlem neighbors, struggling to adjust themselves to a complex community, we virtually ignore.

It was as a member of the board of directors of the New York Urban League and wife of the chairman of its executive committee, that Mrs. Holden was telling us these things in her home at 57 East Seventy-eighth Street. The New York Urban League is one of nine organizations to benefit from the performances by Ruth Draper at the Ritz Theatre during next week, November 14 to 19.

"The Negro does not stand with his hand outstretched for charity. He does not ask to eat in white restaurants or to ride in Pullman cars. He wants only the opportunity to serve and do his share in the work of the community, to make his contribution. We listen to his music, and go to see him perform on the stage and in the concert hall, but beyond that his only chances, practically, are in the underworld and over the washtub."

Mrs. Holden, who was Miriam Young of Boston before she married her architect husband and came to live in New York, is a small, sweet-faced woman with a calm, quiet competence about her. She has always been interested in difficult causes—she supposes it is the New England conscience in her that makes her choose hard tasks rather than easy ones to perform—and she became interested in Harlem about ten years ago. Hers is not the familiar sentimental "uplifter's" attitude—"there aren't many like that in my generation"—but an interest born of a New England sense of justice and a genuine human sympathy for a struggling race.

"The Negro lacks opportunities because he lacks contacts with 'downtown.' As a servant, he gets a better opportunity to know the white employer than the white man has to know him. He also gets—working on Park Avenue—a taste for French doors and fancy fixtures, which makes a problem for the Harlem landlord." She smiled charmingly and went on to talk of the housing situation, which is her husband's chief interest, by the way.

"The Negro is, you know, still without a home. The Rockefeller apartments are very fine, but they are within the reach only of the higher-salaried group. There is more doubling up in Negro homes and sleeping in shifts than anywhere else in the city, because that is the only way they can pay the rent.

"And yet they insist on living in elevator apartments, and they want their radios. They like to pay more for what they buy, rather than less—the 'penny restaurant' had to close last week for lack of patronage. They are proud, you see. They like to feel that they are economically independent, that they can pay their way and pay well."

Hence the slogan of the Urban League, which is "Not alms but opportunity." The Urban League, the only organization in Harlem which has both white and colored members on its board, has a triple aim. It aims to provide: "A forum, where the Negro can do his own thinking; a platform, where he can express his thoughts; an institution, which can give support to the Negro in carrying out the aspirations which he forms."

The League has made strides in improving the health and general welfare of Harlem, although the present economic situation has meant great losses of ground difficultly gained in this as in other fields of welfare work.

Harlem

Towns and Settlements-1933.

New York.

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RACE HAS MOVED INTO SELECT N. Y. RESIDENTIAL AREA

Courier

Pittsburgh Pa. 4-15-33

By FLOYD J. CALVIN

NEW YORK CITY, April 13—A new Harlem is emerging—made by the Negro. The sociologists now coming back after ten years to check again are finding a new community—different from that noted in the heyday of the Garvey movement when "Back to Africa" was the idyllic dream of the district. Now they are checking in calmer moments—appraising a new group's decade of tenure in one of Manhattan's most favored spots. From Columbia they come—looking, observing, inspecting. Other centers, far and near, are sending their clinical experts, who note trends and make forecasts. The future of Harlem seems to portend the future of the race in America.

As Al Smith would say, let's look at the record.

The Negro has taken in more territory since Garvey's time. From fabled 135th street he has moved southward to embrace a "Latin Quarter" of his own between 125th and 110th streets, extending from park to park—Mt. Morris on the east and Morningside on the west. (An arresting view in bas-relief from atop the Empire State on a clear day.) He has created and thickly populated his own "Eastern Shore" in the Fifth and Madison avenue sections north of 125th street. He has marched steadily northward to the Polo Grounds, splashed over into the Bronx heavily enough to attract Chief Flynn's notice, and veered to the left on Washington Heights, adding a new name to his parlance — "Sugar Hill."

Broaway heard of this new creation last season. It extends, roughly, from 145th to 155th street, solid on Edgecombe, St. Nicholas place and St. Nicholas avenue, then shades off through Convent and Amsterdam to Broadway. Indeed, the residents of "Sugar Hill," literally and in fact, "look down" on the more humble folk in "the valley." These "swanky" cliff-dwellers make excursions into "deep Harlem" with as much gusto as the elite from the Village and midtown. Up there lives Harry Wills in his own six-story flat building; and from this eminence towers the Colonial Parkway Apartments, ("the highest building in America in which Negroes live"), from a height of 14 stories, pent-apartments and all, which was erected for the New York Yankees and their families. The tenants there boast three elevators and an extra door for servants, while the latest and best "the valley" affords is the Dunbar, a model garden group housing 512 families, erected by John D. Rockefeller, Jr. during the boom period as the entering wedge against exorbitant rents. By far the best class of tenants is in the Dunbar, where they are buying their apartment-homes under Mr. Rockefeller's benevolent plan. They beat their rivals in that they are not just tenants, but are classed, officially, as "tenant-owners."

Having completely captured Harlem, what has the Negro done with it?

The enlargement and enrichment of the community life within the decade makes as fascinating and as colorful story as Garvey's own times. With aid of philanthropists, just last year the skyline was changed by the erection of the new Y. M. C. A. building in West 135th street east of Seventh avenue. It is 13 stories high, and quite the tallest and most expensive Negro Y in the country—cost $1,250,000. The Y. W. C. A. has been expanded also, with the help of the same philanthropic sources. The beautiful new Emma Ransom House, a dormitory for women, and the Y. W. C. A. Trade School, with ample floor space, have been opened.

The larger churches have broadened their programs of activity. Several have paid recreational workers. Through the Children's Aid Society a large playground has been established in the center of the East side "slums." The Urban League has greatly increased its facilities for service; and the Hope Day Nursery, managed exclusively by Negro women, the Utopia Children's House, aided by the Children's Society, White Rose Home for working girls and Katy Ferguson Home for unwed mothers are carrying on. The city has established a Health Center in West 136th street, and Harlem Hospital, now largely manned by Negro doctors, is filling a great community need. An experiment in Adult Education started last year by the Carnegie Corporation proved so successful that the appropriation was renewed this year.

The economic life of Harlem has languished during the depression; but under the leadership of the Harlem Business Men's Club, which is now three years old, a program of rehabilitation is under way. (Even a "Mayor" has been elected.) Also the National Colored Merchants Association, sponsored by the National Negro Business League, is doing much to stimulate economic activity. Dr. Julius Klein, formerly Assistant Secretary of Commerce, came to Harlem and gave his personal approval to this work.

The literary ambitions of the Harlemites did not die when Carl Van Vechten found other interests.

Harlem N.Y

THIS CLIPPING FROM TH
Wichita Falls, Tex.
TIMES

MAY 11 1933

THE LARGEST NEGRO COMMUNITY

The world's largest negro community, the Harlem section of New York City, gives no evidence of losing its distinction, a recent survey shows. In an area of about 160 city blocks more than 200,000 negroes make their homes, the negro population having trebled since 1920. Negroes constitute about 75 per cent of the total population in this area, but in a region comprising 100 blocks, only four per cent of the residents are other than negroes, the survey finds. More negroes live in the Harlem district than in any other metropolitan environment in the world.

The survey discloses that many of the negroes live under conditions largely similar to those of their kinsmen in plantation cabins in the deep South. A change in environment has brought about only a a superficial change in habits. Most, of course have been able to adapt themselves to apartment life.

Sociologists are not sure about the effects of this concentration. They can see some benefits, but they can see many disadvantages, and they are not yet able to accurately weigh one against the other. They have found that tuberculosis, to which the negro is particularly susceptible, is increasing at a discouraging rate, and that the moral atmosphere is unwholesome. Against these, they see the negro benefited by greater economic freedom and better educational facilities than are generally available in the South. The question as a whole is one that only time can answer.

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New York.

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Harlem

N. Y. HERALD

JUN 11 1933

Jobless Negroes 'Earn a Bit' And 'Save a Little' in Joe Elders' Harlem Junk Yard Settlement

Founder of 'Boat Terminal' Is Mentor and Boss to Group Who Collect Discarded Objects of All Kinds; Allows Them to Use Shacks, Old Cars as Homes When They Earn the Right by Industry

By W. P. Vogel Jr.

Joe Elder, the versatile founder of the National Negro Boat Terminal at Park Avenue and 133d Street, is taking his project into its fifth year this month, with thorough grins of optimism. His settlement, whose sprawling agglomerateness of trucks, machinery and barges assails the eyes of Westchester and Connecticut commuters as they cross the Harlem River railroad bridge at that point, is now composed of more than 100 young and jobless Negroes, who make a meagre but honest living collecting junk of all kinds. Their only morality, imposed by Joe, who is their musician, mechanic, boss and mentor, is: "Learn to Save a Little!"

Yesterday homely activity characterized the scene. Several men were unloading pushcarts filled with a myriad collection of papers, old shoes, pipes, scrap lumber, pasteboard boxes, nuts, bolts and enough machinery to equip a small factory. Others were sleeping, away from the noonday sun, on the front seats of some of the dozen trucks that Joe has acquired. A few were puttering around the shacks and automobile tonneaus which Joe allows them to fix up as homes as soon as they have earned the honor through their industry. One Negro, the pride of the settlement, was sitting outside of his Buick sedan with a gray fedora on his head and his neat blue suit tightly buttoned.

Learn to Save

"It's much better for 'em to live like this," Joe said, "earning a bit and learning to save. Most of the boys has got postoffice accounts started, and after a while, they move away to little apartments or small houses out in the rural sections. Then I give 'em or sell 'em—depending on if they've got enough money—plumbing fixtures, or machines, or lumber, or anything they need."

He made a circular gesture toward the yard. There were three barges tied up to the shore. One was his home, the other two were respectively the embryo machine shop and community center. On the decks were poles, broken engines, rusted chains, driftwood, velocipedes, anchors, old shoes, tables, an overstuffed sofa, four porcelain basins, two bath-tubs, old automobile tires, machine belts, and almost an acre of discarded tin roofing.

"See, I got a lot of things here," Joe said. "It's all salable too. Everything is salable, just as soon as we can convert it into salable forms."

Plans Community Center

In the "community center," one corner of which was under water—"I haven't had time to get the pumps going yet," Joe apologized—were a piano and a phonograph, with a pile of records ranging from "When You and I Were Young, Maggie," to "Jig Time" and "Tiger Rag." There were also part of a concrete mixer, on its back, two large marine pumps, and a peculiar topless gasoline engine connected by a belt to a compact electric generator. Joe bent spryly over the installation. He is only thirty-five years old.

"Now you watch," Joe said pontifically.

He primed the engine with his finger and tapped what seemed to be the carburetor. He cranked it by hand, and after a momentary wheeze it began to chug at a great rate. The generator whirred and the belt snapped back and forth. Soon the community center was ablaze with light, and Joe, over at a switch panel and fuse block, was babbling away happily.

"We got the wire and the fittings by way of the junk cars. All the shacks here got light. We got a meter here," he pointed to the panel, "that tells us when to turn on the engine, and we pick up bulbs from time to time. Gasoline don't cost much. Every now and then somebody gives us some, 'cause we done 'em a favor, like taking care of a truck, or dog, or something."

Joe walked back to his house. Three dogs bounded out, a dubious German shepherd and two woolly animals.

"They drop in from time to time," he explained. "The police dog belongs to a fellow working on the coal barge down the river. He can't afford him no longer, so I just naturally took him in. He's a good boy too—a good watchdog and a friend of the baby's"

The baby, Joe explained proudly, was born a year ago, and is named Alice Thea Elder. He has filled a scrap-book for her with clippings from the daily newspapers and what magazines he found.

"I call it 'A Book of Wisdom.' There's poetry in here, and pictures, and lots of facts. I am always interested in mechanics, and chemistry at high school, and I like facts. I learned how to play all kinds of instruments, too, just because it seemed like an easy way to earn a living. That was before the depression, though."

Works As Musician

Joe works nights in Jamaica, playing in an orchestra there, and earns $15 weekly. "It helps out, but it keeps me away from the place too long. Let's go inside now, and see the baby."

Alice Thea was asleep in a netting-covered crib. Joe's living room, once the deck house of the barge, had a book-case, a radio, a typewriter and two cornets, as well as several pictures, for ornaments. Down three steps was the kitchen, with a glowing coal stove—it was near dinner time—and up three steps was the bedroom.

"There's a shower downstairs. I get my water from the city, and pay 'em the rate for it. We've got really a fine place here."

From the shore one of the young Negroes yelled: "Joe, there's a man here about the front seat for the Cadillac!"

"Coming," Joe bawled. "There's a fellow that might buy something. Business goes on all the time. They can't give much, but every bit of capital helps."

Walking up the gangplank past the sign which reads: "Joe Elder—Trucking, Boats Beached, Repaired and Serviced," Joe was glum for a moment.

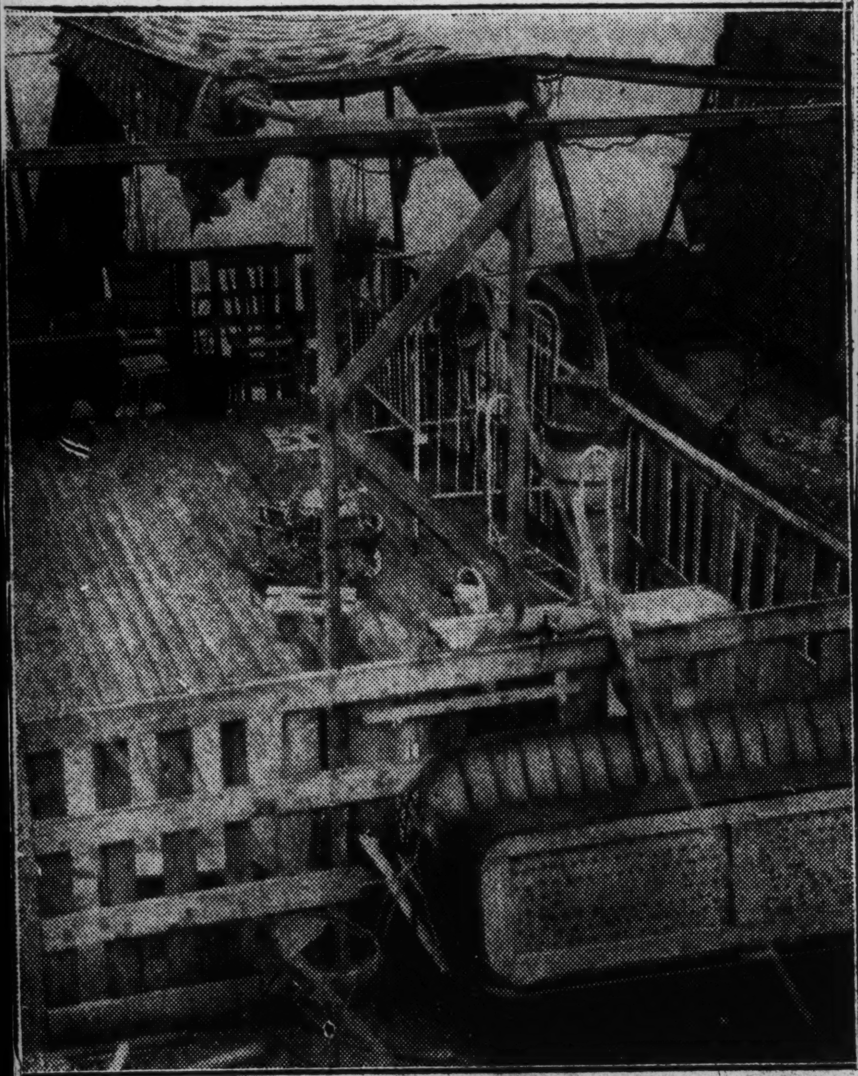
"It does look a mess sometimes. That's because we've got so much stuff here. The Outdoor Cleanliness Association is after me to straighten it up. But we got no time!"

The latest addition to the rolling stock of the N. N. B. T. is a concrete mixer, bought a week ago for $3. Joe and fifteen of the settlement's young men rolled it to the shore by hand from Fifth Avenue and 150th Street.

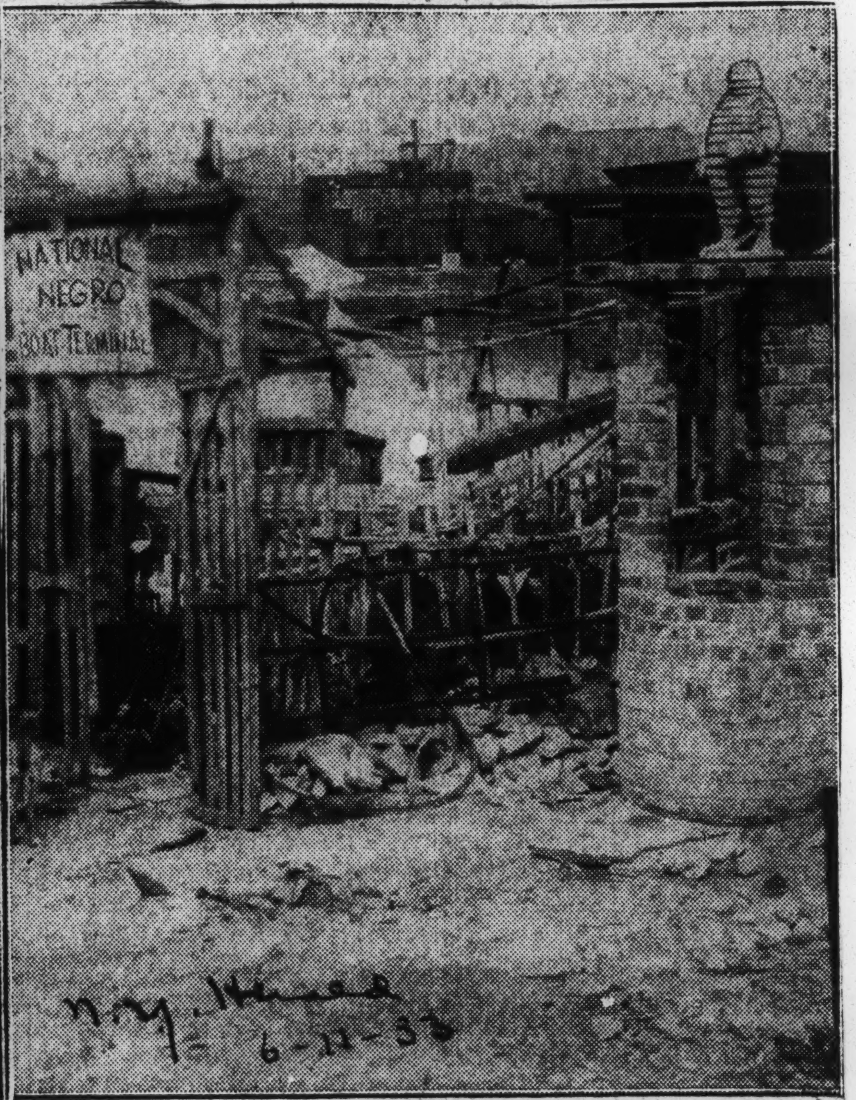
"Coming!" Joe yelled to the prospective buyer. "We've got one theory here: work and save. It's the best thing in a depression, and even if it don't look right yet, we'll have it in order soon. With a garden—I've got greens and corn planted—and railings, and a little beach. You wait and see!"

He grinned again, walking off to his business.

"Boat Terminal" Which Has Become a Negro Colony



Baby's play yard on barge used by Joe Elder as his home


NATIONAL
NEGRO
BOAT TERMINAL

N.Y. Herald
6-11-33

Entrance to National Negro Boat Terminal

Towns and Settlements - 1938

New York

HARLEM

"Negro Capital Of TheNation"

By Willis N. Huggins
'PINCH-HITTING'
For Floyd G. Snelson

NEW YORK, August 29—Many of the oldtimers are happy to see that veteran barrister, Edward H. Morris returned to the leadership of the Grand United Order of Odd Fellows. In an earlier day, Morris was a giant, not only in law, but in civic and political affairs. He has served as a beacon for the youngsters who are trying to hold the lines today

"BLACK HITLER"

Plaindealer
9-2-38

It is unfortunate that this term got under way. Because the white press spread it was no valid reason for our press to re-echo the term. The work done by "Sufi" was fundamental. He taught Harlemites to stand up and fight by picket and boycott. Even tho he used strong language in regard to the Jews, yet by no stretch of the imagination could he be called a "Hitler." The term brought Jews small comfort and has cost black workers the loss of jobs. Let's stop it.

Kansas City
Kansas

We are wondering whether the fight on Jake Powell, of the Yankee Baseball team, is going to help or hinder the early entrance of black players into the major or minor leagues.

PULLMAN PORTERS

Just as it seemed evident that the forward march to better wages, work porters were getting set for a grand ing conditions and general cooperative achievement, murmurs hint that there is much trouble upon the line for them. Legions of us who are now in business and the professions, have passed through the Pullman car. We do not wish to see the old bulwark crumble or even weaken. Have the leaders lost their magic?

Salutations to Manning Johnson, whose resolution brought the discrimination situation to a head in San Francisco recently. The hotels that refused to take black unionists as guests, were at least put on the spot. Mr. Manning is the New York organizer of the Cafeteria Employees Union. Local 302.

WILL MARION COOK

This veteran in the world of music and the theatre, is planning to establish himself in France, "never" again to reside in America. Within a year he plans to put together his reminiscences, some of which may not be very pleasant to earlier colleagues who walked with him by the way.

THE NUMBERS RACKET

"Numbers" are peculiar things. They have neither beginning nor end. Everybody and everything has a number. Even John, the Revelator, "saw the number, 'way up in the middle of the air." But his were not the numbers that have Harlem in turmoil just now. Only three digits—527—so it is said, have boiled until the top of the "Harlem Racket" has been blown off. The game is played all over America by worshippers of chance white and black. But if not a single American played the game, Harlem would still have 100.000 Puerto Ricans and 80,000 British West Indians to feed the Moloch with its attendant disgrace.

SAVE AND HAVE

The black American will not get far economically until he cuts down on his living expenses. It makes no difference whether he lives on Beach Creek in Alabama, "Sugar Hill" in Harlem or among effet Bostonians, he feigns to live like a lord. Can it be that black servants in the homes of wealthy whites, saw so much luxury that they can't get over it?

THE HARLEM LABOR AGREEMENT

That pact on labor recently concluded, whereby Harlemites were to receive one third of the white collar jobs in Harlem stores, has borne no fruit. The trouble is that no white men have been fired, none have resigned and none have died. Yet boycotting and picketing have been "requested" stopped, to await one or more of the three foregoing events?

BUSINESS IN HARLEM AND CHICAGO

Harlem—

In 1930 there were 413,000 black folk in the state of New York, 328,000 of whom were in New York City. Of this 328,00, roughly 80, 000 were British West Indians. There are, on the edge of Black Harlem, a population of some 100.000 Puerto Ricans, Cubans and a varied assortment of other mulattoes from South America. This Spanish speaking grou phas little, very little, dealings with Harlem proper. Whereas the American blacks buy from the Spanish stores, the amount spent by the Spanish with the Americans, is negligible.

In 1935 black Harlem had 960 stores, which employed 1813 people including 1008 proprietors. The total intake for the year was $3,805.00.00 The total operating expenses were $1,171,000.00, exclusive of a payroll of $472,186.00. The average annual sales per store was $3964.00. Thus the Harlem storekeeper's average daily sales ranged from $10.50 to $12.50.

Chicago—

In 1930 there were 329,000 black folk in Illinois, of whom 234,000 were in Chicago. Of this 234,000 roughly 5,000 were British West Indians and a negligible number of Spanish speaking folk. In 1935 Chicago had 724 stores which employed 1349 people including 743 proprietors. The total intake for the year was $2,735,000.00. The total operating expenses were $802,000.00 exclusive of a payroll of $361,061.00. The average annual sales pwere $3778.00 per store Thus the Chicago storekeeper's average daily sales were between $10.2 and $11.00.

These figures tend to show that neither the black consumers in Harlem nor those in Chicago, spent as much as a dollar per month, on the average, toward the promotion of business among themselves. What's the trouble?

Don't forget to send me your shortest and choices quotation from any of the works of James Weldon Johnson, except his anthem, "Lift Every Voice and Sing."

Willis N. Huggins, 1890 7th avenue N. Y. C.

HARLEM

"Negro Capitol of the Nation"

By FLOYD G. SNELSON

NEW YORK PANORAMA

Thanks to the New Deal Administration and the Federal Writer's Project of New York—the author of an interesting book—according to Walter Winchell—"chock full of fascinating stuff about 'The Big City'." Released September 15, 1938; Random House, New York, publishers.

NEGRO CAPITOL OF THE NATION

Age
10-8-38
New York

Writers, historians, and world travellers, regardless of race, color, or country will all agree that Harlem is the greatest Negro community in the world.

Harlem leads while others follow! There is not a city, town or locality in the world that can boast of such noble achievements, racial distinction, democratic ideals and national recognition.

The observations of Dr. Willis N. Huggins, Ph.D., noted educator, who appraised the volume suite conclusively: Quote:

> **Of the 56 pages given exclusively to descriptions of the races in New York City 19 pages are devoted to "Portrait of Harlem" entirely about Negroes.**
>
> **Harlem was given five times the amount given to the Irish; four times that of the Italians; three times that of the Germans or Spanish; and two and a half times that of Jews."**

"PORTRAIT OF HARLEM"

Though always restricted by tradition to certain areas, trades and professions, the Negro has lived and labored in New York for more than three hundred years. He is one of the most vivid figures in the city's history, and in terms of progress and chronology, his continuous adjustment to New York's ever-changing environment, the manner in which he has reacted to the handicaps and penalties imposed upon him because of color and class, make a record of dramatic interest and social challenge.

In 1930, 327,006 Negroes were residents in New York, the largest single concentration of Negro population anywhere in the world...... some 250,000 live in Harlem.

The earliest records show that eleven Negroes were brought to the settlement of New Amsterdam in 1626 as slaves......For 100 years thereafter Negroes were either indentured servants or slaves...Under Dutch colonists many were granted freedom......Many had the right to travel, assemble, marry and own property, and afforded legal protection....In 1664, when the English conquered the Dutch, slavery became profitable, flourishing and oppressive institution modeled upon the slave system of Virginia.

In 1694 the colony possessed about 2,170 slaves, and in 1709 open slave markets were operating in New York......Most of the Negroes of New York labored as domestics, chimney sweepers and ship calkers ....While many who obtained their freedom from their masters through determination and frugality, owned small businesses.

The first school for Negroes in New York was opened in 1704 by Elias Neau for the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Party......The first secular educational institution was the African Free School, organized chiefly by the New York Manumission Society and opened in 1787. Forty-seven years later, when Negro children were transferred to the public school system, there were seven African Free Schools in the city.

The Negroes' early struggle for human rights was manifest in 1710 when a slave brought suit against his master for wages......And in 1712 a group of slaves smarting under a sense of intolerable wrong, met in an orchard in Maiden Lane and planned an insurrection against the whites .... The insurrection brought savage retaliation....Out of it, however, grew fear and respect for the Negroes which found expression, in legislation and abolition of the slave trade.

The plot of 1741 gives many interesting episodes of the existence of the Negro population of New York. There were some 10,000 Negroes in New York, about a fifth of whom were slaves. Several fires were started......During the ensuing terror, every Negro seen on the streets was arrested......Whites became implicated when a search for stolen goods led to the tavern of John Hughson, whose colored servant girl was arrested and confessed knowledge of the insurrection under torture. Public hysteria and panic, intense in New York, spread throughout the country......Of 150 Negroes cast into prison, 13 were burned at the stake, 18 hanged, and 71 transported to the West Indies.

Between 1741 and 1766 many Negroes succeeded in purchasing their freedom....During the Revolution they were accepted for military services by both America and England....New York was among the first of few states to reward Negro soldiers with freedom; and in 1799 an act was passed conferring gradual emancipation and ending slavery in the state on July 4, 1827. Free Negroes had the right of citizens, including the right to vote.

Dear readers: The foregoing paragraphs mark the beginning of a series that will appear in this column weekly from "The Portrait of Harlem," the latest description of New York's black belt—Harlem, published recently—The New York Panorama.

Age
5-6-39

LOW-RATING HARLEM

THERE WAS A TIME when newspapers and magazines printed in New York, in order to bolster their circulation, used to run a series of articles or exposes on Harlem. Most of these exposes were merely the effusions of writers, who, in an attempt to be sensational, too often exaggerated half-truths to the point where they maligned Harlem and all Harlemites.

It remained, however. for the National Tattler of Toronto, Ontario to top them all in its issue of May 1st now being sold on the newsstands. The expose of Harlem is entitled "Harlem Negroes Are Worse Off Than Slaves" and from that premise proceeds to paint a picture of Harlem as a jungle and its residents animals. All in all the tabloid carries by far the most vicious article on Harlem that we have read or seen.

It starts off saying:

"Abraham Lincoln freed the Negro slaves years ago, but now a Lincoln and a Solomon both are needed to solve the problem of the unemployed Negro in big city colored areas such as New York's notorious Harlem. Despite the best policing in the history of New York City, the "Tattler's" investigators find thuggery and vice rampant in various forms as the desperate Negroes battle against actual starvation.

"The occasionad bloody race-riots that sweep over the two-mile square area of colored Harlem would be more frequent but for the generous policy of relief which is reported to support as much as 80 percent of the residents of some blocks.

"Although housing and crime and health conditions are far better in Harlem than in the colored districts of other big cities, they are still tragic when measured by white standards. Unquestionably much of the debauchery that is described here can be laid at the door of unscrupulous whites."

Then follows a few paragraphs of truths about housing and jobs, but this is offset by the most vicious libel on Harlem and its residents. We quote:

"A fine youthful body and a capacity for physical demonstrations of 'love' are valuable assets in Jungle Harlem—assets that bring quick cash. Jungle 'queens' lord it over all races while their beauty lasts. Stately, tall girls of graceful poise, who have Caucasian features. velvet tan skin and abundant animal vitality, can cash in on their charms—but they are exceptional.

"Starting as show girls in cabarets they learn the ropes quickly at 16 years and become adept at extracting money from several sweethearts at once. Incredibly dicty (haughty) they live with one successful colored man, go out with others, and keep at least two white men dangling, if possible. (All the money in Jungle Harlem comes from whites, directly or indirectly.)

"There is a deep-seated hatred between the two races that bursts out even in the most intimate relations of miscegnation. These Negro show-girls who have white admirers take fiendish delight in making unreasonable demands and forcing comically abject attentions from their fair sweethearts. Like jungle girls who lure white hunters to tribal torture. the Harlem queens gloat over forcing their offay (white) lovers to parade them whereever they can be admitted in white hotels and night-life. And they are admitted almost everywhere because the men are never less than big spenders."

Harlem Goes Southern

Advertiser
1-12-39
Montgomery Ala.

New Yorkers are finding new adventures in dining this Winter north of Central Park. By journeying up the Harlem for barbecued spareribs or sweet potato pie after the curfew law has closed the night clubs downtown, seekers for the unusual have made the city aware of a gastronomic frontier full of good things.

Harlem restaurants with few exceptions are open all night, and visitors who explore them just before dawn encounter the early breakfast patrons. One looks toward the counter and sees Negro workmen, half-awake but hungry, preparing for the day's chores with platefuls of turkey hash and hominy grits. The poorer customers nibble at chitterlings, usually the cheapest dish on the menu, and find consolation in the thought that in Harlem a nickel will buy a good cup of coffee.

The food is served in surroundings as plain as a delta cabin. The tables are either bare or covered with red-checked cloth; the walls are a patchwork of advertising signs, and the air is heavy with the odors of the kitchen. Although silver is provided it is usually superfluous, for the visitor who comes equipped with a set of willing fingers gets the warmest welcome.

Ordering in some of the restaurants requires no deliberation, since they offer only a single specialty. One of the more pretentious establishments on Lenox Avenue has built up a name on fried chicken alone, and a small lunch counter on upper Seventh Avenue has won a reputation by serving nothing but spareribs. But in many of the restaurants the menu may span the whole length of Southern cooking from Chesapeake Bay to Lake Pontchartrain.

The variety of breads is impressive. You may be invited to try hot biscuits, or hoe-cake made with a thin batter and cooked slowly in a "spider," a heavy pan which admits only a little heat. If you have a weakness for "pot likker," cornbread is available in any number of forms, as sticks or muffins or flat pan bread.

Importations from the South frequently fill several shelves, and big jars of plantation-made jams and relishes may be opened to serve with the main course. One restaurant takes pride in its stock of watermelon rind, pickled peaches and pickled beans sent up from Georgia.

* * * *

Harlem's skill in preparing pork compares favorably with that of the Chinese. Its predilection for pork chops is not hard to understand after you have sampled chops stuffed in the grand manner with a rich chicken dressing Pork's versatility is remarkable, and it may come to the table smothered in a thick pan gravy, as barbecued ribs, as Virginia ham with raisin sauce, or as Carolina sausage with waffles.

The choice of vegetables is virtually unlimited. There are greens galore—turnip greens and collard greens just now and mustard greens in the Spring. There are black-eyed peas and quaint combinations like the dish known as "Hopping John" peas cooked in rice so that they absorb the starch, expand, and "bust right out of their skins," as one cook put it.

The piece de resistance is likely to be a sweet potato dish. It may turn up as candied yams, topped with orange slices and marshmallows, or as sweet potato pie at the end of the meal. The filling for this pie, as served at one Harlem restaurant, is made with two cups of sweet potatoes. After the potatoes have been boiled with or without their jackets, and then mashed, a mixture is added which consists of three slightly beaten eggs, three tablespoons of butter, one cup of milk, one cup of sugar, a teaspoon of vanilla extract, a quarter of a teaspoon of nutmeg and a quarter of a teaspoon of cinnamon.

If you decide on fried chicken for the main course, you are asked whether you want the cook to "swim" it or to "sink" it. When you plead ignorance of thes terms, the waiter grinningly suggests that you will probably prefer the first method. Swimming a chicken, it seems, means cooking it in a shallow lake of its own grease so that it floats on the surface.

"That way we chase up the flavor from the bottom of the pan but it can't get out," the waiter explains. "Then we turn it over and do the same thing with the other side. Some folks like chicken fried in a deep fat —, what we call 'sinking' it — but the trouble with that is before you know it the chicken is liable to get drowned. Then it comes up just like cardboard. Swimming a cihcken is the only way you can be sure of locking in the flavor."

Whether Harlem barbecues meats on a rotisserie spit or over a pit, the visitor is struck with the elaborateness of the preparations. If the restaurant uses the pit method the procedure is reminiscent of the Southern Negro's traditional mass barbecue for an occasion like the Emancipation Day picnic, when long trenches are dug to receive a whole cow and a fire burns all night to provide charcoal for the feast day. In Harlem the meat is cooked on a grate over a pit filled with charcoal so that the grease falls onto the coals, vaporizes and is wafted back to the meat. Meantime the meat is basted with barbecue sauce.

Requesting a recipe for barbecue sauce is one of the unpardonable breaches of Harlem etiquette that the uninitiated may commit. The restaurant keepers are as generous in giving information on most points of the cuisine as they are with portions of the food itself, but the secret of barbecue sauce is something else. The only certain way of obtaining such a recipe is to wheedle it from a private cook untroubled by thoughts of its reaching a competitor's kitchen.

A cook who recently emigrated to Harlem from Louisiana volunteers a recipe for barbecue sauce which has 12 ingredients, but she says it is less complicated than it sounds. The ingredients are a quarter of a pound of butter, a teaspoon of dry mustard, a dash of cayenne pepper, a teaspoon of tabasco pepper, two tablespoons of tomato catsup, two tablespoons of lemon juice, two tablespoons of vinegar, half a tablespoon of onion salt, half a teaspoon of garlic salt, a tablespoon of tomato sauce, two tablespoons of finely chopped parsley and a quarter of a cup of water. This recipe is sufficient for basting two chickens or proportionate quantities of meat.

* * * *

Perhaps Harlem's reluctance to share with outsiders the mysteries of barbecuing has some deeper significance than the mere desire to guard a trade secret. For the Negro cook has an understandable distrust of recipes which reduce the rites of the kitchen to a scientific formula. Cooking is an art, mysterious and undefinable, that the white man may discuss in terms of half-cups and other fractions just as he speaks of strange things like calories and vitamins. But for the Negro a chicken is a chicken, not a certain number of proteins, and it will respond best to the cook who cajoles flavor and tenderness with magic words while passing hands over the fire.—August Loeb in New York Times Magazine

Towns and Settlements—1924.

Long Island, New York.

58

Port Jefferson N.Y. [illegible]
6/1[illegible]

NEGROES TO BUILD THEIR OWN VILLAGE IN BABYLON TOWN

On a 200-acre deveolpment between West Babylon and Wyandanch, on Little East Neck road, in Babylon town, and close to the estate of August Belmont, the only strictly negro village on Long Island is to be established. It has been reported that several persons had taken the matter up with Major Belmont, but the major said this was not so and that he was not disturbed about the project.

"There is a shack west of my farm, about a quarter of a mile west of my residence," said he, "but I don't know what kind of a land scheme development is on foot."

Charles Hagedorn of Brooklyn, a lawyer, is operating the development, but is away on his farm in Orange County. In an interview, his bookkeeper stated that the land is being sold on the instalment plan to negroes, many of who will farm and keep chickens.

The tract is near the railroad, and the lots have been selling for the past three years. On Sundays high-priced motorcars filled to capacity with negroes, visit the spot to look over their future home sites.

The development is suitated in a beautiful section of the township of Babylon, and the future village will be established on land as flat as a table top. If all the lots are sold the tract will accommodate about 6,000 residents. Only a few lots remain to be disposed of.

Big signs erected on what will be the main street, Little East Neck road, proclaim that sites have been selected "for the Rev. Gordon, for a church"; "This site reserved for a school"; "This site reserved for a community center," and so on.

Negroes were employed last summer clear scrub oak for the developme yet no streets have been cut t although markers have been ere —Eagle.

WORK STARTED ON FIRST HOME FOR SPRAIN RIDGE PARK

Work was started last week on the first home to be built at Sprain Ridge Park, a surburban development which the Nepperhan Home Building Corporation is seeking to make an exclusive residential section for colored people. The new house is being built in tile and stucco for Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Thompson, and impressive ceremonies marked the breaking of the ground for their new home.

N. Y. Age

Accompanying the owners, were the Rev. Hutchins C. Bishop, rector of St. Philips P. E. Church, and Caleb A. Morales, president of the development corporation, and one of the builders of the house. An appropriate prayer was offered by Dr. Bishop also removed a shovel full of eorth was moved by Mr. offered by Dr. Bishop before a shovel full of earth was moved by Mr. Thompson. Dr. Bishop also removed a shovel full of the newly broken ground before the workmen took charge.

11/15/24

The house will be of colonial design, fire proof construction, and will contain eight rooms and two baths, with all modern improvements. A considerable part of the building material used in its construction is being furnished by the Nepperhan Concrete Products Corporation, located in the vicinity.

Several hundred lots have been sold to colored buyers during the past summer, and plans have been completed to start work on other houses in the near future.

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N. Y. C. EVENING WORLD
OCTOBER 1, 1924

HARLEM NEGRO CITY ONLY ONE OF ITS KIND

Metropolitan in Every Sense, It Has Own Stores, Theatres, Churches and Professional Men.

Social Life Is Elaborate, With Inner Circles of Cultured, Well-Educated People, Poet Declares.

(This is the second of two articles by Mr. Johnson on the history and present aspects of colored Harlem.)

By James Weldon Johnson.

In the first article we told how colored Harlem began. Now what is Harlem to-day? Is it a Negro ghetto? Is it a "Little Africa," such as has often been described as being common to cities of the United States where there is a considerable colored population? Is it merely a herding place for Negroes?

No. Harlem is not any of these things. It is unique. It is distinguished from colored settlements elsewhere. In most Southern cities and in many Northern ones the colored population is either a fringe around the city or else the colored people are scattered in a series of nests, set off from one another and from the rest of the city. But Harlem is compact. It is immense, teeming with life on a metropolitan scale. Nor is it set off by any physical barriers. You do not have to cross any river or railroad tracks to get there. You walk into Harlem by passing from one street to the next. In fact, so much a part of New York City is Harlem that you cannot travel the length of the city without passing into and out of this great colored city within a city.

In other ways, too, it is part of metropolitan New York. The houses are like the houses in the white sections. The streets are clean. There is the same variety of shops. In fact, the only superficial difference between colored Harlem and other parts of the city, the thing that at once registers with any one passing through, is that the color of the crowds upon the streets is dark. Otherwise there is no marked distinction. Unlike many of the foreign quarters, Harlem speaks not only English but New Yorkese. Its residents dress and behave like other citizens.

HARLEM'S METROPOLITAN LIFE.

There are a number of reasons why Harlem is so much a part of New York City, so intensely a part of metropolitan life. First of these are the main thoroughfares passing from white New York into Harlem and out again into white New York, and linking black and white. Second is the diversity of employment offered to Negroes of New York. They are employed not in gangs as they are in the Chicago stockyards or in the mills of the steel manufacturing cities, but as individuals. For this reason they quickly adapt themselves to city ways though they may be but recent arrivals from the South or from the West Indies. It has been said truly that a gang of Mississippi Negroes brought to a steel or packing town, at the end of six months remain Mississippi Negroes; but a group of Negroes coming to New York as individuals from Mississippi, at the end of six months are New Yorkers.

Despite its identity with the city, Harlem, nevertheless, is characteristically Negro. It could not be anything else. Walk along the streets and you hear loud talk and unrestrained laughter, see groups of people "socializing" on the street corners, obviously enjoying these informal open-air meeting places. If you go to Harlem on a Sunday you will see not only crowds of well-dressed church-goers pouring into and out of imposing churches, but also parades and processions with brass bands, with the most elaborate uniforms and costumes, a splendid pageantry in which the participants, as well as the beholders, take evident delight. Any pretext is enough to bring about such a procession, whether it be the funeral of a lodge brother or an annual meeting of a benefit society. All the district shares in these occasions. "Welcome" signs are displayed on churches and business offices, flags are draped on facades and hung from windows. Harlem is always ready for some kind of a holiday and if no holiday happens Harlem proceeds to make one. It is this quality of spontaneous, easy joy permeating the colored section of the city that makes it seem so colorful and exotic to white visitors.

NIGHT LIFE IS COLORFUL.

That is true of the night life of Harlem as well. There are a number of movie houses and theatres, of which the Lafayette Theatre has had the distinction of producing the well-known Lafayette Players and of being a trial ground for some of the colored musical comedies that have taken Broadway by storm in the last few years.

Not all of Harlem's life is accessible to the visitor who views it from the sidewalk, although the existence of some phases can be surmised by any one seeing the handsome churches, beautiful residences, and its excellently appointed real estate, newspaper and insurance offices. For Harlem has a life of its own. It is a well-organized city and has its inner circles of cultured, well-educated and charming people, with as elaborate a social life as that of any group in the country. Its doctors and lawyers, its business men, politicians, writers, clergymen, form a community that exercises an influence not only in Harlem and on the city but on the entire Negro population of this hemisphere.

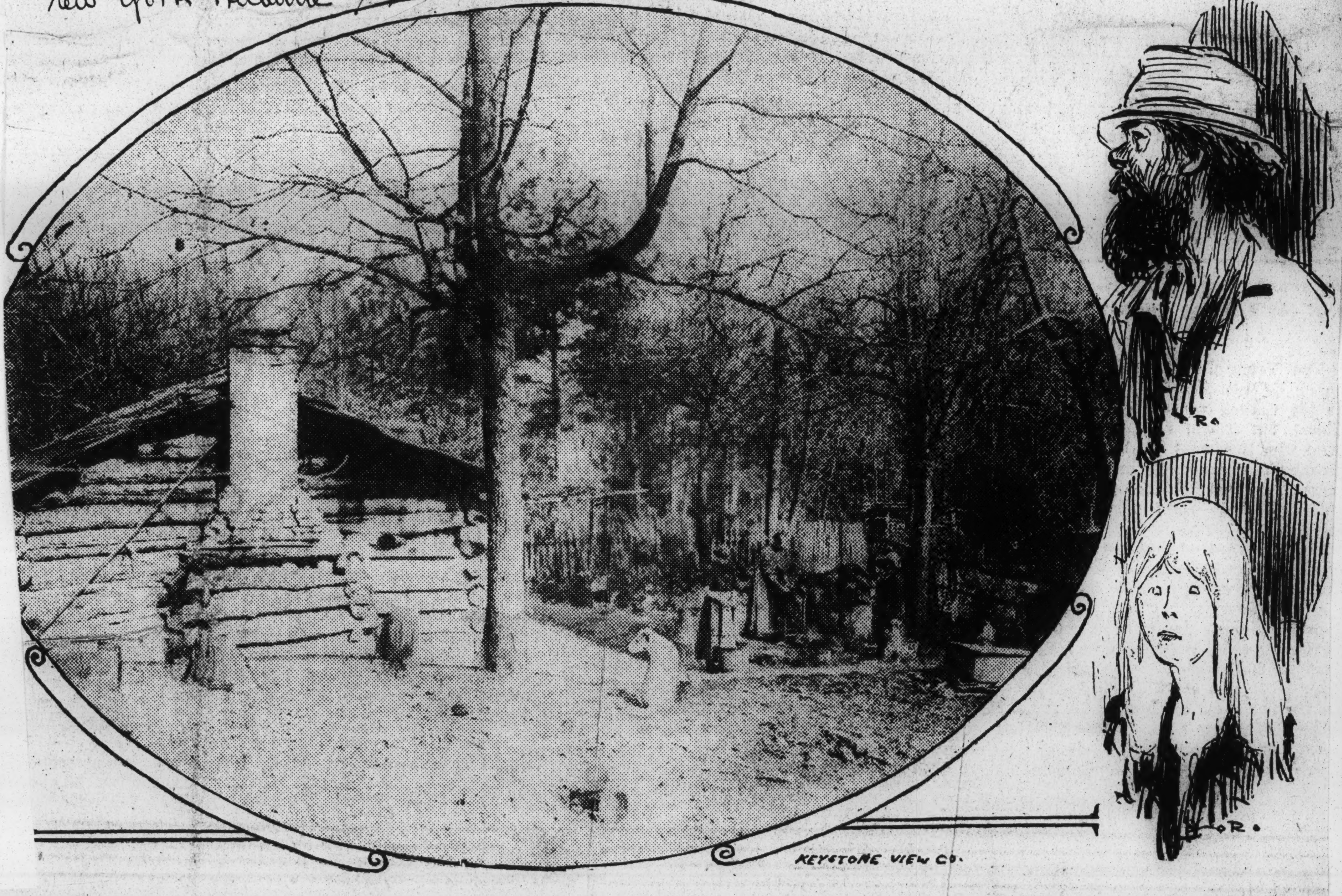
Harlem is in many ways the goal of Negroes everywhere and it exercises an increasingly powerful influence upon them. Politically it is one of the first groups of American Negroes to have achieved independence from routine allegiance to any one party. It is represented in the State Legislature by a Negro Democrat and in the Board of Aldermen by a Negro Democrat. The politicians never know exactly how Harlem is going to vote. It is not a district they can dismiss as certain. They have to cater for its votes. And this year the Republican Party has gone so far as to designate a colored candidate for election to Congress.

In other fields than politics Harlem represents freedom and opportunity. Negro poets and writers come to in Harlem. For there they are part of the great city from there they make their contacts with editors and publishers, can have their books and articles published. From there Negro business men negotiate with white banks and bankers, launch enterprises in other parts of the country, finance the Negro's work anywhere and everywhere. **There the Negro is able to live among his own people as a Negro and to give his best to his own people.**

Towns and Settlements – 1921. New York.

By WILLIAM JAMES DOBBIN From foregoing card "Thirty-five Miles, etc." Drawings by DOUGLAS RYAN

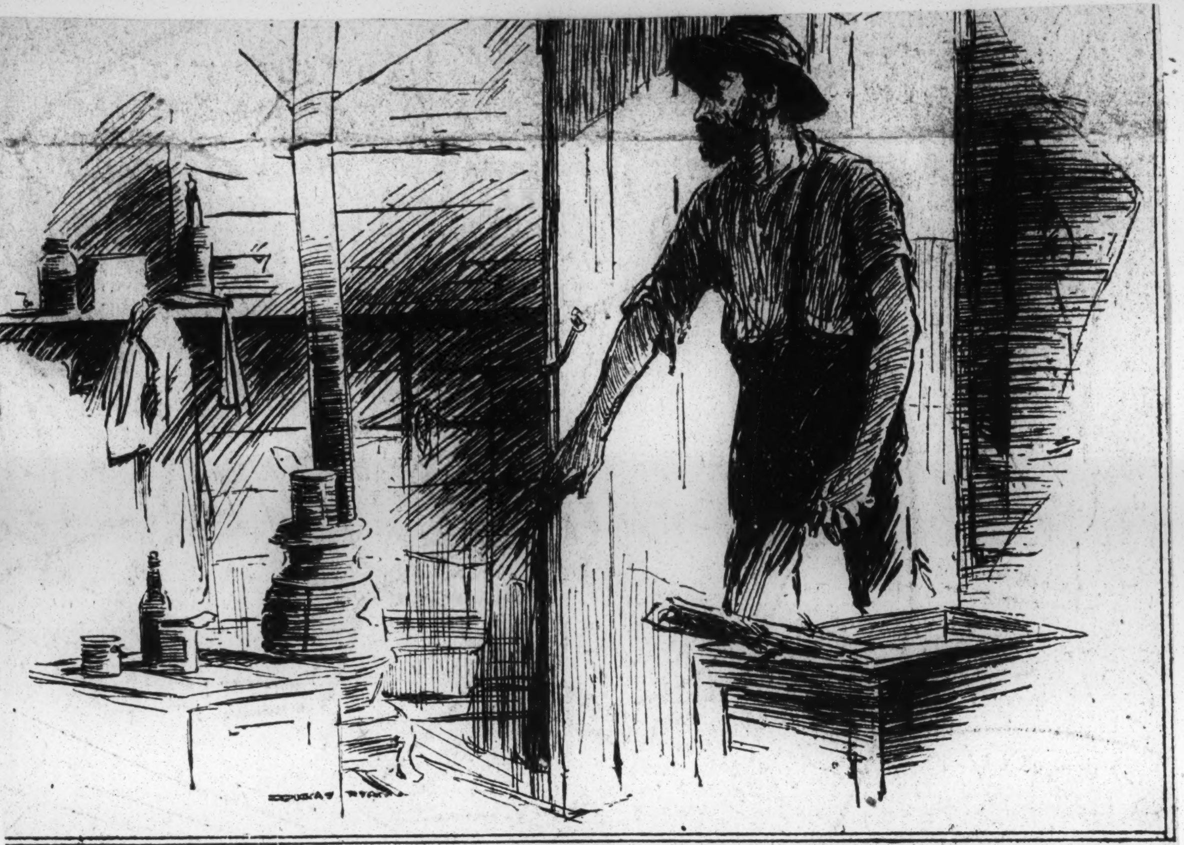
New York Tribune 6/12/21



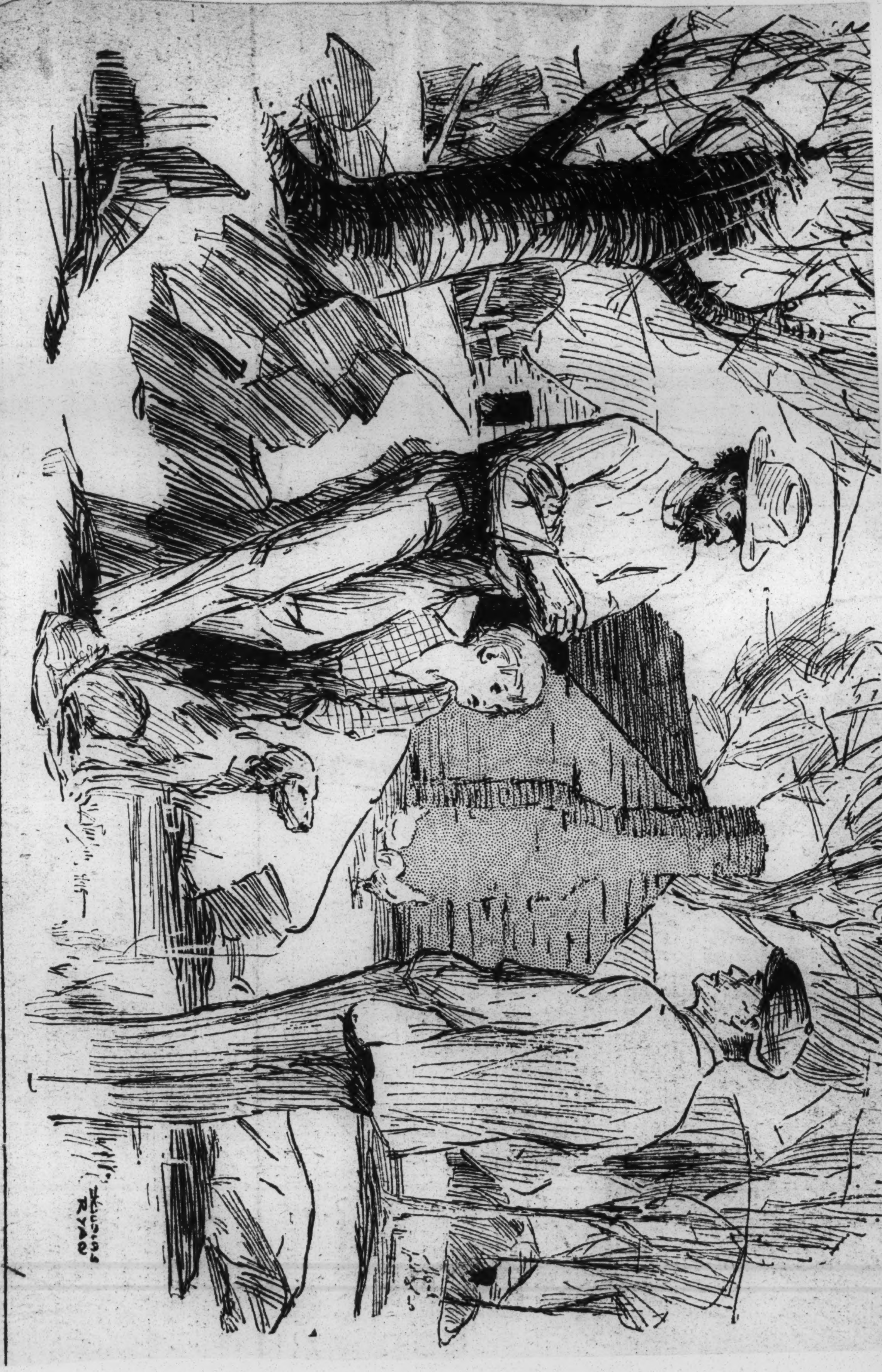
KEYSTONE VIEW CO.

An assortment of humans who, according to gossip in adjacent villages, are "wilder 'en any people the Tennessee Mountains ever sheltered" — (see other side)

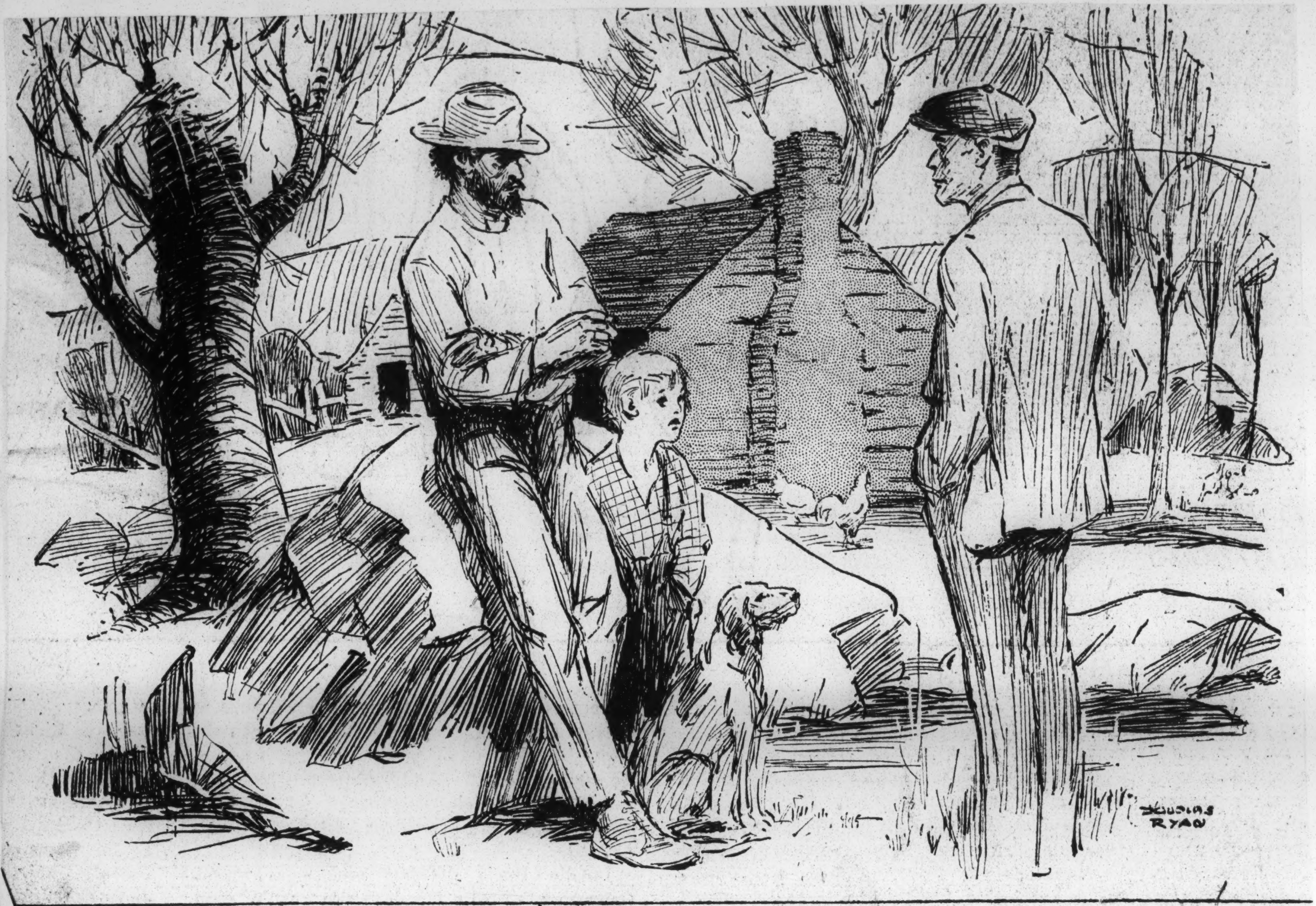
"Jackies"


Douglas Ryan

Found his 'oman 'ad disappeared with 'nother feller


Douglas Ryan

He had heard about a war, but "'lowed it mustn't a bin much 'cus I didn't see no fightin' round these parts"



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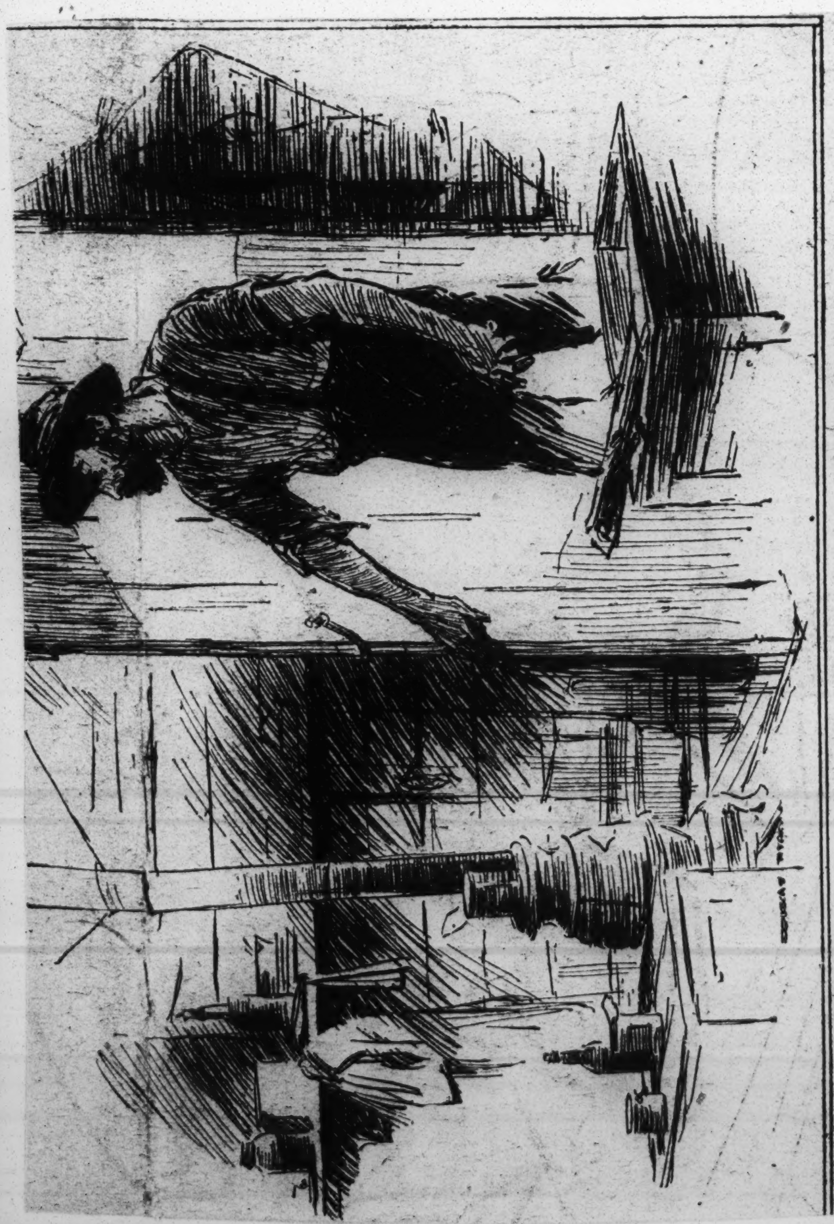


Found his 'oman 'ad disappeared with 'nother feller

Towns and Settlements — 1921.

New York

N. Y. C. TRIBUNE
JUNE 12, 1921

THIRTY-FIVE miles from New York City, with its man-made skyline, seats of learning and citizens of culture, towers a range of mountains which shelter an assortment of humans who, according to gossip in adjacent villages, are "wilder 'en any people th' Tennessee mountains ev'r shelter'd 'en worse 'en th' scum of th' earth when it cums ter morals 'en stealin'."

The mountains in question are the Ramapos. The people, a mixture of Indian, negro, Albino and white blood, are called Jackies—a mountain term for Jackson Whites. These Jackies are a class of mountaineers who unconsciously have entered into the "back to Nature" idea with the fullest enthusiasm—their whole sustenance being from the gleanings of the field and forest. Civilized man with his truant officer, churches, marriage licenses, 'en other pesky things is as popular as a revenue agent with a Tennessee mountain moonshiner.

Read the following from a Rockland County history:

"Of this population (Ramapo mountaineers) tales are told of promiscuous association of the sexes, of ignorance so dense that on at least two occasions women over twenty-one years of age confessed on the witness stand that they had never heard or knew the meaning of the word God and they knew no difference between the words mine and thine when applied to property of non-residents . . . A generation passing away recognized this name (Ladentown—a mountainside village) as a section where ignorance, lawlessness and Godlessness held full sway; where every crime known on the calendar was committed, and where, if a stranger inadvertently entered, it behooved him well to leave all hope behind . . . A Ladentowner denoted a social pariah."

At present there are two mountaineers, a woman of thirty-five and a man about forty, in the Rockland County jail, at New City, on a charge of attempted murder. One Sunday in February District Attorney Lexow, of Suffern, was notified that an old mountaineer had been brought down into the valley near his home at St. John's, and that the fellow would probably die as a result of wounds recently received.

It was snowing hard that day, but the District Attorney set out for St. John's. On the outskirts of the place he arrived at an Episcopal mission, conducted by Dr. Burton Lee, who does missionary work among the Jackies in that section. Mr. Lexow learned there of a mountain woman who had decided that her husband of sixty or over was too old. She had taken a younger man and she and the young one had attempted to do away with the husband.

After a four-hour trudge through the snow the District Attorney and his party arrived at the home of the mountaineers.

"When I told this mountain woman that I would indict her for murder in the first degree if her husband died," said Mr. Lexow, "she showed no more concern than would a metropolitan newspaper reader at a headline stating 'Another Man Is Found With Two Wives.'"

Through Dr. Lee's knowledge of mountaineer habits the District Attorney secured written confessions from both the woman and the man that they had decided to do away with husband No. 1 because he was too old. This is the only instance I have been able to find where the law has gone into the mountains after a mountaineer.

At Suffern, Tuxedo Park, Ladentown, Johnsontown, Sterlington and nearby hamlets, where many of America's socially prominent families own large estates, many people offered information concerning the Jackies. The surprising feature was that all information had been obtained from "some one I met" who had visited the shacks of the mountaineers. First hand information was hard to secure.

After spending the good part of a morning listening to tales from people who "had never visited the Jackies," the writer must admit that as he trailed a path that zigzagged a mile to gain an elevation of 500 feet, he welcomed the words of his "civilized" Jackie guide:

"Those fellers ne'r seen th' real Jackies. A Jackie's a coward 'en I'm hopin' th' all won't lock 'emselves in th' cabins when we git th'r."

A half hour later we approached little clearings on bits of level land. Here in hovels of roughly hewn logs, plastered with a yellow sticky mud which suggested cold winters, we found some of the poorest and most ignorant people in the United States, excluding perhaps some of the inaccessible fastnesses of the Tennessee mountains.

Mongrel dogs barked. Scores of poorly clad children scampered like hares to shelter. Doors were slammed in the face of a "white man." The outward display of poverty and ignorance could not be equaled in a three-day journey from New York City. Boulders and half rotten logs were scattered about the clearings in a motley confusion.

But the efficacy of the bribes of civilization worked successfully. Penny candy for these mountaineer kiddies; chewing tobacco and cigars for the Jackies and pink popcorn and salt water taffy for the 'oman folks. Then Ranse, Gladys, Elijah, Zekial and Luther came to see what else the "white man" hid in his large pockets. Biblical names were evidently popular with a people rated as heathens by their wealthy neighbors in the valleys.

From where we stood by the side of a path could be seen three shacks. Here eight grown-ups and thirty children lived and I was told this group was typical of Ramapo mountaineer life. Scattered in groups—from northern Pennsylvania to the foothills of the Catskill Mountains—the Jackies probably number eight or nine hundred.

These mountaineers are decendants of slaves originally owned by the old Suffern family and later liberated. During the Revolutionary War a discontented body of Hessian soldiers threw away their arms and joined these former slaves in their mountain retreats. Through the later mixture of Indian and white blood—mostly men fleeing the long arm of the law—the present Jackie is a curious looking person. Their skins are either yellow, copper colored or light brown, their hair tawny and in most instances straw colored, and their eyes blue or yellowish.

It is said that there is considerable negro blood in these Jackies, but the American negro seldom has a beard or mustache. Ramapo Mountain Jackies all wear beards and mustaches. In one family I saw children as blue eyed and golden haired as a Swede and others as copper colored and black headed as an Indian. Students of hereditary characteristics would find these mountaineer children a problem.

A Jackie named Ranse after sufficient persuasion and reassurance from my "civilized" guide that I was just a harmless visitor and represented neither law nor societies, decided after pocketing a shiny half-dollar to show how "bockies" were made. "Bockies" is the Jackie term for baskets.

Ranse took a piece of swamp maple twenty feet long and with a dextrous hand split it into quarters. Nowhere, not even in the Maine woods, have I seen a man swing an ax as skillfully as this Jackie. Each blow echoed through the forest. Ranse then flattened the quarters with a wooden mallet and by means of a sharp knife peeled off thin strips which were smooth and silky on one side. The rough side was made smooth by a scraping process in which the mountaineer's knee served as workbench. Ranse appeared as if he enjoyed the praise given his work.

"Yeh," he said. "We make ax 'andles out 'er hick'ry saplin's. 'En later we git th' poplar 'en carve ladles, spoons 'en choppin' bowls. On th' oth'r side th' mountain some folks make mats 'en rugs outer wood fibres. People down th' villages buy 'em for porch rugs 'en door mats.

"In the summer," Ranse explained, "lot's mountain folks pick 'uckleber'ies. A man cums each ye'r 'en buys all we git. I don't know this feller's name but he sure gits a powerful lot a ber'ies from us folks."

Just like their city brothers, the talk turned to prohibition. "It's darned hard ter git a drink nowdays," wailed a fellow whose baggy pants were connected to a dirty gray flannel shirt by a strand of rope. "No more Callico rum 'er parties at Rat'lesnake Inn."

Drink has played a big part in the lives of the Jackies. I was told that when hard cider was plentiful "some snartin' fool 'ud throw sand in the cider 'en the'd be a 'ellofa time." But since "fightin' cider" is scarce the Jackies are generally peaceful folks except when the 'oman folks cause a row.

The "civilized guide" explained "that when a man returned home and found his 'oman 'ad disappeared with 'nother feller—then big doin's was likely." I smiled as he added, "'course city folks

(over)

don't do those things." Ranse admitted that mountaineer marriages were frequently failures. People who call Jackies uncivilized please note.

All Jackies answer the question, "Where were you married?" by mumbling, "Justice de Peace." Memory fails, however, when called upon to recall the date of a child's birth. "Sometime las' fall," "A few ye'rs back," "En abo't for'teen ye'rs old," are the general replies. The older folks tell their age as quickly and correctly as the average "civilized" woman of thirty-five.

A girl of about fourteen came trudging along the path with her bare arms laden with freshly picked pink mountain laurel blossoms. These beautiful blossoms I learned would be brought to the Bear Mountain state road, where the child would sell bunches to passing motorists. The peculiarity of the child's features became prominent through the bundles of laurel.

Her hair was a silver white which shone in the sun with a live silver lustre. Her eyes were pink with lids half closed and her lashes and brows of the same silver texture as her hair. The skin of the girl's face, neck, arms and bare legs was as white as a newly laundered collar.

"Didn't yer ev'r see a Albino?" queried Ranse when he noticed my curious stare. "Ov'an th' woods th's lots of 'em. 'Pink eyes' we calls 'em. They kin see bett'rn night 'en we kin, but in th' day—they's blinder 'en bats."

Here was a real Albino. It is difficult to find a full blooded one like the girl passing before us because of the intermarriages. In the village of Suffern it is said that many years ago a number of Albinos brought to New York City by a famous circus ran away to the Ramapos where they mingled with the Jackies.

The mountaineer children are scary creatures who are suspicious of every move made by a stranger. The truant officer is their greatest "bogy-man" and from the answers made by the more adventuresome that official is not extremely energetic in his mountaineer roundups. These children have never seen Sunday schools, but one girl of about twelve smiled sheepishly when I asked if she had ever heard of God. It was evident she had heard the name in another sense besides the oaths of the Jackies.

Ranse explained that doctors never came into the mountains. Medicine was used in the form of snake oil secured from boiling black snakes. This mixture is used for cuts, bruises and sores. Possum grease and herbs are also used for healing purposes. When a Jackie dies the overseer of the poor is called in and this official, probably the only one the Jackies deal with, sees that a proper burial is made at the expense of the state. Many mountaineers live to be seventy or seventy-five years of age, but their 'oman folks grow old at an early date.

Fishing and hunting are big features in mountaineer life. Land turtle, muskrats, skunk and just now woodchuck are choice catches for the Jackies. Game laws appear to be so much tommyrot and I believe none of them would let a good shot get away because it was the off season. When a Jackie goes fishing he returns with a catch which would make a civilized sportsman chuckle for a year. Golden trout, pickerel and bass often appear on the Jackie's menu.

Ranse now appeared thoroughly acquainted. He inserted a two-inch piece of chewing tobacco into his mouth and became extremely confidential. He explained how sometimes the mountaineers would go on begging expeditions. "Th' men folks sit aside a road out of th' town. 'En the 'omans with brains go 'en git clothin', shoes, 'en lots o' stuff what's pretty good for o'r shacks."

Thus the Jackie scoffs at civilized man's high prices and strikes. "But how about the barber?" I asked.

"Oh, each c'munity 'as its clipper. Th' 'oman folks cut th' hair 'en we let e'r beards grow 'til we kin cut 'em with scissors. Yer see we folks don't like outsid'rs. We git no big trouble 'til outsid'rs butts in. We seldom marry outside th' mountains 'en most Jackies consid'rs these hills his home 'en no place f'r other folks.

"Onc'ter while a Jackie goes ter the mills 'en mines ter work—but," Ranse smiled, "th' gen'rel Jackie doesn't like hard work. Jackies don't vote much. I haven't voted since 'Big Bill' Snell ran fer sompin' 'en he's now dead. 'Big Bill,' yer know, ran Rat'lesnake Inn 'en wus a great fr'end ter all mountain folks."

Ranse did not know women had been granted the privilege to vote and admitted he had heard something about a war, but, " 'lowed musn't a bin much 'cus I didn't see no fightin' round these parts."

To a blue law agitator the Ramapo Mountain Jackies would appear as scoundrels. But from what I saw they are nothing more than an uneducated people who know enough about woodcraft to satisfy even Thomas A. Edison. It is queer that the Jackies should have as their neighbors the wealthy residents of Tuxedo Park with their immaculate homes and carefully combed lawns.

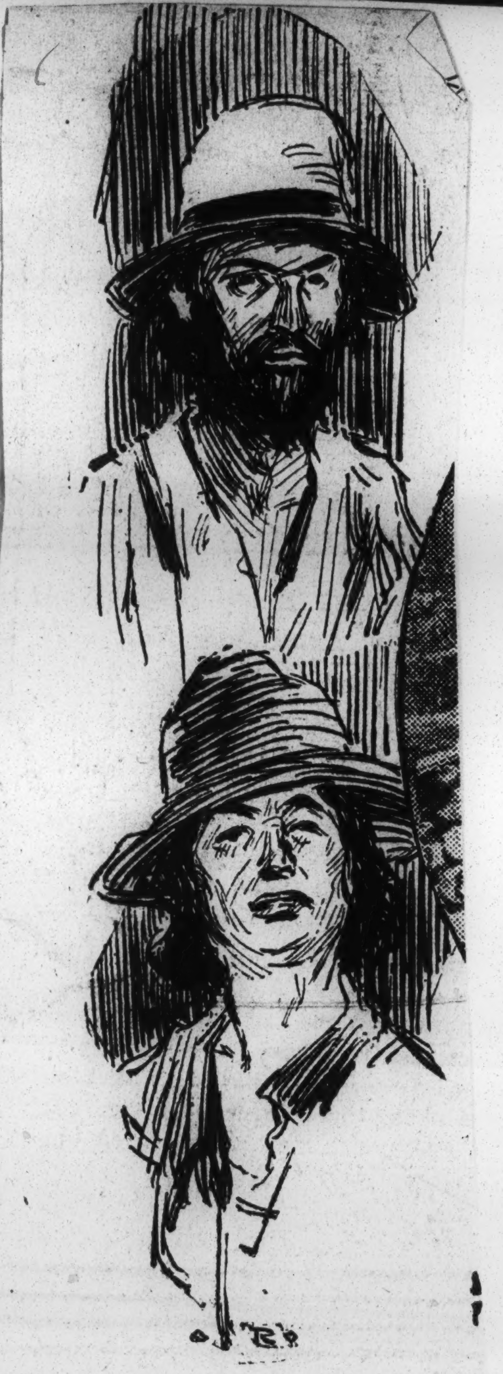
The Jackies are dirty, but there was not enough evidence to justify the story of a Suffern citizen when he said he "knew a man" who had visited the Jackies and reported on his return that he had seen a woman throw a flea covered dog out of a bread box so as to get a piece of bread for a hungry youngster. I was allowed inside one shack and failed to see a bread box and doubt if there is such a thing in any mountaineer shack. In the shack I entered there was a bundle of straw in one corner which was used for bedding. A small stove, a broken table, a few soap boxes, one broken chair, condensed milk tins which are used for drinking, and a few boxes of junk were the entire contents.

When we left Ranse he was standing upon a small knoll outside his cabin. About two miles out front could be seen a shining lake where one could picture jumping lake trout and lazy pickerel. To the right a woods such as city folks see only in art galleries. To the left a hill and valley view which would make a city office worker gasp with wonder.

"Would you like to live in a city?" I asked Ranse.

The Jackie sniffed the air. He looked about. And this "social pariah," who is supposed to be ignorant concerning God, murmured:

"Naw, sir—this is God's countree."



(See Next Card for Drawings)

Towns and Settlements-1929

New York.

96

NEGRO VILLAGE IN RICHMOND A PICTURESQUE COMMUNITY

Its Oyster Industry Long Destroyed, It Now Pins Hope to the Regional Plan

JUST twenty miles from Broadway, well within the area encompassed by the Regional Plan, is a picturesque village of negroes in the Borough of Richmond. It is, by old Staten Islanders, called Sandy Ground.

New York Times

5-7-29

New York N.Y.

Here in houses of ante-bellum days, bravely mended and patched, live almost 1,000 colored persons. Factories on Staten Island do not employ many negroes, and the only industries in Sandy Ground are the smithy, the gas station and the general store at Bogardus Corners.

Sandy Ground raises chickens and garden stuff, goes out to do "day's work," carpentering and plastering, takes in washing, sends its children to school and Sunday school until they are old enough to go away and find work, and pays with exemplary regularity its taxes and its pastor. A humdrum existence, to be sure, far different from life in Harlem.

But Sandy Ground expects to turn its gardens and chicken farms into building lots for homes and business. The highway running through the village is shown on the great map of the Regional Plan and also on the map in the surveyor's office in Borough Hall. Sandy Ground now feels itself part of the great city.

In the general store where the colored folks meet, excited talk now runs to land values and road paving and a sidewalk along the great new highway. This will lead from the Outerbridge Crossing, three miles away, to the Goethals Bridge and further on to the Port Richmond-Bayonne Bridge, the Holland Tunnel and Manhattan. Eyes shine as sums in four figures are mentioned. Over in the Mount Zion Church, on the Bloomingdale Road, where the social as well as the religious life of the community centres, prayers are more fervent and hymn singing is more inspired.

It is about time luck was changing, the older people will tell you. There has been no real prosperity in Sandy Ground for more than a decade—that is to say, since the oyster beds in New York Harbor were destroyed by the gradual pollution of the waters.

For generations the men of Sandy Ground were oystermen. From the deck of small two-masted schooners they fought their way against treacherous winds and currents to the beds of Princes Bay. Sometimes they would be gone for several weeks on a trip to Virginia to gather seed oysters. Some of them worked for Captain David Van Name, one of the first to plant seed oysters in American waters.

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7-29

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COLORED CITIZENS PROSPEROUS HERE

Culture and Gayety Abound in New York's Rapidly Expanding "Little Africa."

BEAUTY SHOPS FLOURISH

Polyglot Population, Swelled From Many Countries, Is Estimated to Total 300,000.

N.Y. Times

8-1-29

New York N.Y.

Long after the bright lights of Broadway grow dim and flicker out those in Harlem's Little Africa blaze on unblushingly until the first pale flush of dawn, for negro Harlem never really goes to bed. From midnight to sunrise there is plenty of life on the Great Black Ways of Lenox and Seventh Avenues and 135th Street.

Here is a city within a city, composed of colored people from all parts of the world. Alderman Fred R. Moore, negro editor and publisher, estimates its population as 300,000. Other well-informed negroes in the district place the population at the same figure. In 1928 The Amsterdam News made a survey of the negro population in the district and estimated it to be 200,000 or thereabouts. But at the present time close observers place it between 250,000 and 300,000.

Since there is much congestion and overcrowding in this northeast section of the island and there is a large population of negroes who live in furnished rooms and move frequently, census enumerators have found difficulty in accurately tabulating the residents.

Many Come From Other Lands.

Ever since the World War the negro population of the district has been increasing by leaps and bounds. A large majority of these new arrivals have come here from the South. Today, besides this large influx of Southern negroes, there are West Indians, Africans from both British and French colonies, Cuban and Porto Rican negroes, Spanish and Portuguese, South American, and other representatives from far away corners of the Old World. Hence it is a polyglot, heterogeneous population thrown together in a great melting pot.

One may readily recognize the West Indian negro by his English accent. Usually he is educated and industrious and confident of making headway in the world. On the whole he is a good business man. Many West Indians own prosperous stores in the district. In recent years many young negroes from Southern colleges and universities have been settling here [illegible] carve out careers as physicians, lawyers and teachers. A good many undergraduates come here in the Summer months to obtain employment in order to enable them to pay for their education. In the district there are also many Northern and New York negroes. They were among the early settlers of the colony.

It is surprising how soon the newcomers, especially those from small primitive towns and hamlets of the South, adapt themselves to new conditions. One may readily recognize these new arrivals. At first they are greatly bewildered. They saunter along the avenues, gazing big-eyed at everything they see: the tall buildings, rows of barrack-like flat houses and the hurrying throngs. Some of them are as simple-minded as small children and believe everything they are told. And they are too ready to accept strangers at their face value. Consequently it is not surprising that they fall easy prey to rogues and sharpers who rob them of the little money which they have.

In recent years the district has been swelling and expanding. A few years ago the boundaries of Little Africa, roughly speaking, extended north from 125th to 145th Streets and from the Harlem River to Eighth Avenue. With its population rapidly increasing the district naturally had to find an outlet. Some years ago the black stream took a southbound course from 125th Street to 116th Street and overflowed into the adjacent side streets. At the same time another black stream went northward beyond 145th Street to the curving Harlem River. It overflowed Eighth Avenue north of 125th Street and went west to St. Nicholas Avenue. Today St. Nicholas Avenue north of 125th Street to 145th Street is also exclusively inhabited by negroes.

Rents by No Means Cheap.

Rents in Little Africa are not cheap. Many of the old brick tenements in the heart of the quarter are veritable beehives. Although apartments may be had in the newer houses for $75, $85 or $100 a month it is not such an easy matter to find a suitable flat at a reasonable rental. Consequently two or three families are living in flats and apartments that were originally designed for a single family. In this manner negroes are able to pay high rents.

There are many prosperous negroes in Harlem and these live in private houses or in new model apartments with push-button elevators, decorated courts and luxurious apartments. These negroes own expensive motor cars and keep servants. It was estimated recently that there were several millionaires in the district. Some of them accumulated fortunes in the real estate business.

Mme. Walker, the wealthiest woman in the colony, died a few years ago and when her will was probated it was revealed that she had left a fortune of more than $1,000,000. Starting life as a washerwoman in the South at $1.50 a day, she came North and with her savings opened a negro beauty parlor. It proved to be a prosperous venture and in a short time she had a chain of beauty parlors. She was not satisfied merely to operate them here but opened such establishments in cities throughout the country where there were large colonies of negroes. She built herself a $250,000 country estate at Irvington-on-the-Hudson, which she left to her daughter.

Little Africa now has every conceivable kind of store, most of which are owned and operated by negroes. There are innumerable beauty shops scattered throughout the district, apprising passersby that they use this or that system for beautifying both the hair and the complexion. There are restaurants of all kinds from cafeterias to homelike little basement places with clean linen and shining dishes, where real Southern dishes are served. In season these restaurants presided over by Southern mammies specialize in yams and chicken cooked from forgotten old Southern recipes.

There are shops, not all of them eating places, which remain open all night. These are generally tobacconists, barbers, and delicatessen stores, bakeries and sundry other shops. There are a great many night workers in the district and men and women who are in the theatrical business. Hence owners find it profitable to keep their shops open both day and night.

Night Clubs and Cabarets.

Scattered here and there are night clubs and cabarets. Most of them put on pretentious reviews with negro entertainers. These clubs are patronized principally by white people. They visit them in swarms and from 11 P. M. to midnight taxicabs and motor cars by the hundreds roll up to their doors. Some of the clubs cater to both whites and blacks and these are known as "black and tan" places. Until Commissioner Whalen inaugurated the curfew law, ordering such places of amusement to close their doors and douse their lights promptly at 3 A. M., many of them remained open until long after dawn and put on a review at 4 A. M. for the benefit of jaded sightseers.

However, the negroes who cater to pleasure seekers are really much in the minority. The district abounds in churches. There are little and big temples of worship and on Sunday morning church bells everywhere summon the faithful and the avenues are thronged with soberly clad worshippers.

Sandy Ground, N.Y.

THE HOUSE RENT PARTY

A scene from the play, "Harlem," showing a common method of meeting the landlord's exactions

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uaint Negro Village Lies At Gotham's Door

Sandy Ground is one of the Most Unusual Settlements of Race

By HENRY WARD BROWN

St. Louis Argus
7-12-29
St. Louis Mo.

NEW YORK, July 11. — Just wenty miles from Broadway lives [illegible] of the quaintest Negro commu- ities in the country about which ittle is seldom heard—a picturesque village in the Borough of Richmond known by old Staten Islanders as Sandy Ground. Almost 1000 persons make up this settlement which has long depended upon the Oyster ndustry as it source of livelihood.

The Smithy, the gas station and the general store at Bogardus Corners are the most outstanding things at Sandy Ground. The folks raise chickens and garden stuff; go out to do "day's work," carpentering nd plastering; takes in washing nds its children to school day school until they are old gh to go and find work, and pays with exemplary regularity its taxes and its pastor.

Many Are Oystermen

For generations the men of Sandy Ground were oystermen. From the deck of small two-masted schooners they fought their way against treacherous winds and currents to the beds of Princes Bay. Sometimes they would be gone for several weeks on a trip to Virginia to gather seed oysters. Some of them worked for Captain David Van Name ,one of the first to plant seed oysters in American waters.

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Mostly Old Timers

Henry Bishop is the smith of Sandy Ground. He was a clever man with his hands and a good rope-splicer in his seafaring days. Now he repairs everything from an automobile axle to a meat grinder. The whites come to him from miles around. He raises chickens and golden bantam corn—or rather his wife does. Joel Cooley, another former oysterman, has taken to raising flowers. Last year he won a prize at the dahlia show. Most of the men, however, earn what they can by doing odd jobs.

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NEW YORK TIMES

JUL 7 1929

NEGRO VILLAGE IN RICHMOND A PICTURESQUE COMMUNITY

Its Oyster Industry Long Destroyed, It Now Pins Hope to the Regional Plan

JUST twenty miles from Broadway, well within the area encompassed by the Regional Plan, is a picturesque village of negroes in the Borough of Richmond. It is, by old Staten Islanders, called Sandy Ground.

Here in houses of ante-bellum days, bravely mended and patched, live almost 1,000 colored persons. Factories on Staten Island do not employ many negroes, and the only industries in Sandy Ground are the smithy, the gas station and the general store at Bogardus Corners.

Sandy Ground raises chickens and garden stuff, goes out to do "day's work," carpentering and plastering, takes in washing, sends its children to school and Sunday school until they are old enough to go away and find work, and pays with exemplary regularity its taxes and its pastor. A humdrum existence, to be sure, far different from life in Harlem.

But Sandy Ground expects to turn its gardens and chicken farms into building lots for homes and business. The highway running through the village is shown on the great map of the Regional Plan and also on the map in the surveyor's office in Borough Hall. Sandy Ground now feels itself part of the great city.

In the general store where the colored folks meet, excited talk now runs to land values and road paving and a sidewalk along the great new highway. This will lead from the Outerbridge Crossing, three miles away, to the Goethals Bridge and further on to the Port Richmond-Bayonne Bridge, the Holland Tunnel and Manhattan. Eyes shine as sums in four figures are mentioned. Over in the Mount Zion Church, on the Bloomingdale Road, where the social as well as the religious life of the community centres, prayers are more fervent and hymn singing is more inspired.

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Sandy Grounds Community, N.Y.-

73-1941
The Union
Cincinnati, Ohio

OHIO

73

Want A Negro Town?

THEY OUGHT TO GO DOWN SOUTH, OR TO AFRICA, WHERE THEY BELONG!

(DABNEY.)

(By JACK ELLIS)

Litigation has been instituted in Common Pleas Court to enjoin the incorporation of the "Village of Lincoln Heights," a Negro section north of Lockland. In the event opponents of the plan are unsuccessful Lincoln Heights will become the first exclusive Negro village in the State of Ohio.

All of its administrative officers will be colored because the community is 100 per cent Negroes. Mike Magham, junk dealer, already has announced his candidacy for mayor.

In a recent election, there, the incorporators won by a majority of 35 votes. The vote was 382 for incorporation and 347 against. Fulton, Negro lawyer, led the incorporation forces, while Major Ziegler, Walnut Hills Negro, was one of the leaders of the opposition.

The incorporators plan, if they are successful in court, to ask for a RFC loan from the government with which to build a waterworks, and a municipal building. In view if the defense program, it is doubtful if such a loan would be granted at this time.

Three suits by separate plaintiffs to enjoin the incorporation of the district have been filed by three different law firms. The first action was filed by Mrs. Helen Collins, Negro, 18 Rose Street, to enjoin George Kearns, County Recorder, from recording the petition of incorporation, maps and other papers.

Mrs. Collins filed her action through Robert J. Harris of the law firm of Thorndyke and Becker. She attacked the petitions and the election, charging that the petition was not signed by 60 electors of the district and that 40 of the names were signed on "pieces of paper purporting to be part of the petition."

Mrs. Collins said also that from the handwriting it was apparent that some of the names had been signed by the same person and that 27 of the alleged signers only were electors whereas the names of 30 electors were required.

Further, she asserted, the election notices were not issued properly. As a further claim against incorporation, Mrs. Collins said it would cause a hardship upon the taxpayers as but $451.55 would be available for municipal purposes if all was collected, whereas she declared the collection has averaged but 88 per cent of the taxes levied.

The second suit was filed by Joseph Timbermann, 1998 Springfield Pike, Wyoming, through Becker and Loeb, lawyers. Timbermann says he is the owner of real estate in the extreme southern edge of the section incorporated. He not only objects to such incorporation of his property, but declared that he has filed a formal application to [illegible] it annexed to the City of Lockland and that his application has not been acted upon.

He declared that inclusion of his property in the proposed village of Lincoln Heights would cause a loss to him and not benefit Lincoln Heights because it is situated beyond the symmetrical lines of the proposed village.

The third action was brought by Mary McSwain, Wayne and Martin Avenues, who makes allegations similar to those made by the Collins woman in her petition. The McSwain woman declares she is the owner of 3.21 acres which have been included in the incorporation.

All three suits seek to enjoin Kearns from recording the documents.—The Cincinnati Examiner.

JUL 31 1941

JUL 31 1941

JUL 31 1941

"Village of Lincoln Heights, Ohio - Negro Section of Lockland -"

1831
1941

67 1946

Ohio gets first all-Negro town; nation, its fourth

Tribune Los Angeles Calif.

Sat. 6-22-46

CINCINNATI—Ohio got its first all-Negro incorporated town last week, and the country its fourth, when Judge Chase M. Davies granted the Lincoln Heights area here permission to incorporate.

The incorporation petition was filed originally by the Rev. M. J. Mangham and William Phillips three years ago. When the county commissioners granted the petition, M. L. Zeigler, local real estate dealer and property owner, led a large number of property holders in fighting the action. Their oppositon resulted in a restraining order and a request from the commissioners that the incorporators return and include more land in their petition.

6-22-46

The incorporators filed a new petition which was approved by the commissioners and, last week, by Judge Chase. The original land, occupied mainly by Negroes, consisted of the present incorporated area, plus the land where Lockland's Wright Aero plant now stands. The incorporators failed to get the plant area included in the land grant. At present, the village has no fire department, waste collection, or school system.

Saturday 6-22-46

Zeigler said he would no longer oppose the effort of the incorporators because he felt the job was "too tremendous for the available finances". He said he would "sit back and watch the developments as a property holder in the hope that they will succeed over the odds"

Tribune

Another member of the opposition, Thad Harvey, declared he "did not oppose the principle of an incorporated village, but . . . did oppose the exclusion of the area that became lucrative from the standpoint of taxes, involving the Wright . . . plant.

6-22-46

"I feel that we should take in territory that rightfully belongs to the incorporation and the railroads, the reservoir . . . the plant area was formerly occupied by Negroes who were forced to move with the coming of the industrial development. I can assure you that I believe Negroes are just as qualified to operate a town as any other race of people, but they should not handicap themselves by cutting off land that rightfully belongs to them and would pay great financial dividends."

Los Angeles Calif

The decree becomes final upon certification to the state secretary, who has authority to grant the court's action providing no appeal is made within 10 days.

54 Ohio

Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.
Sat. 11-15-47

MAYOR AND POLICE CHIEF—About 15 miles from Cincinnati is Lincoln Heights, one of the few municipalities in this country where the governing officials are not white. Above are Police Chief Sim Thompson (left), and Michael Mangham, mayor of the village, which has a population of 6,000 persons, including 15 white families.

Negro Town In Ohio New But Going Strong

News Sun. 11-16-47

Birmingham, Ala.

LINCOLN HEIGHTS, Ohio, Nov. 15—(AP)—This village of 6,000, which claims to be the only Negro-governed municipality north of the Mason-Dixon Line, is starting its second year of operation and, says Mayor Michael Mangham: "We're just learning to walk but we're going to make it all right."

Sun. 11-16-47

Located in an outlying section of Hamilton County, some 15 miles from downtown Cincinnati, the community includes 15 white families. The remainder of its population is Negro.

"Colored folks began settling here 25 years ago," said Mayor Mangham, sitting at a desk in the one-room combination mayor's office-police headquarters-council chambers.

Sun.

"After we really had a community started, we realized that since we were not inside any corporate limits we would have to organize a village of our own to obtain such things as street lights, police protection and utilities."

11-16-47

ABOUT 10 YEARS AGO the mayor, who also is pastor of the First Baptist Church and operates a small trucking concern, and a group of civic club members drew up a petition and made their first effort to incorporate the community. The move touched off a court battle, lasting nearly nine years.

"Some of the folks who owned considerable property here for renting purposes opposed the idea," the mayor said. "But they were in the minority and we won out in the Summer of 1946."

"His honor" said he had done some research on all-Negro towns.

"There are about five villages in the United States with all colored people," he said, "and they're down South. There's Mt. Bayou, Miss. three, I believe, in Oklahoma and one in North Carolina.

Ohio

"Ours is the only one north of the Mason-Dixon Line and I suppose it's the largest."

54

* * *

LINCOLN HEIGHTS' first election, a non-partisan affair, was held last November. The offices of mayor, clerk, treasurer and council were filled for the most part by the group which had carried on the fight to incorporate the village.

The administration, standing on its first-year record, won handily again in this month's election. The administration, elected on a "citizens' ticket," operates on a $14,000 budget.

News

"None of the office holders aims to make any money from his job," the $300-a-year mayor said. "The chief of police makes $200 a month and his two regular patrolmen get $180, but they're the only full-time employes."

Birmingham, Ala

The clerk and treasurer each get $300 a year and the six councilmen are paid $2 a meeting—$48 annually.

Sun. 11-16-47

THE VILLAGE has hired three men to maintain its blacktop streets, but apparently they haven't caught up with their work, for the streets are full of holes.

The village is without street lights but council has taken a chunk out of the $14,000 budget to buy light standards and plans to have lighted thoroughfares before the year's end.

Big Sim Thompson, the 6-foot, 200-pound police chief, believes he and his men can handle their colored folks "a little better than the other officers."

"We've had two murders this year," he said, "and we got both of the people that did them, and confessions, too. Most of our cases are family trouble—just little things like assault and battery and disturbing the peace."

The "white folks" who live here occupy company houses, built by a chemical works some years ago.

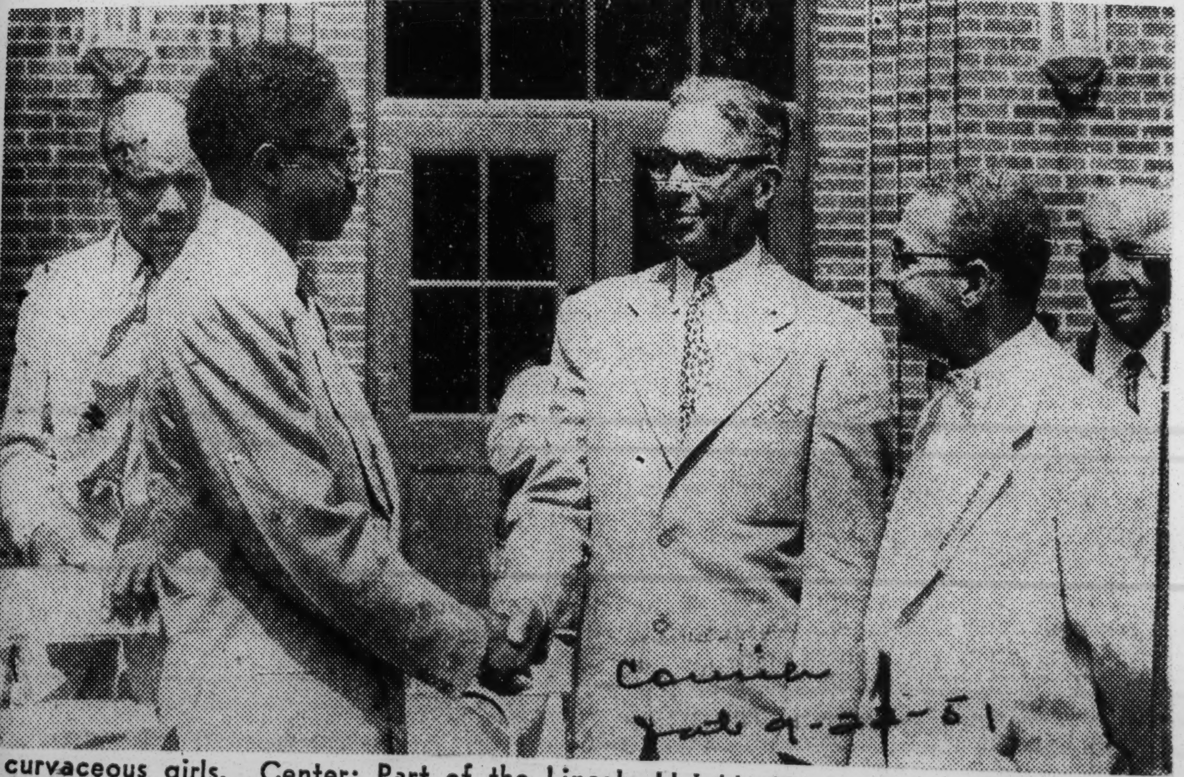
"We never have any trouble," the mayor said. "They're all good people."

About 70 per cent of Lincoln Heights residents own or are buying their homes and Mayor Mangham believes "we really have a going concern."

GENERAL
AIRCRAFT GAS TURBINE DIVISIO
LOCKLAND PLANT

Courier
Sat. 9-22-51
Pittsburgh, Pa.

LINCOLN
HEIGHT



Courier
Sat. 9-29-51

Lincoln Heights Birthday—Ohio's all-Negro city — Lincoln Heights Village, near Cincinnati—celebrated its fifth birthday of incorporation recently. Left: On the big General Electric float in the gala parade were, left to right, Joyce Holliday, Gwinnett Thompson and Shirley Thomas, three very curvaceous girls. Center: Part of the Lincoln Heights Fire Department. Right: Mayor Arthur T. Shivers shakes hands with Nilkamp Chavre, former Ambassador from India and noted world traveler and lecturer, who was guest speaker for the occasion. Looking on is Alvah S. Caliman, celebration day chairman, who introduced the guest speaker.

Lincoln Heights Is Newest Negro City

Defender Sat. 9-29-51

LINCOLN HEIGHTS, Ohio — Proud new neighbor of Cincinnati, Lincoln Heights is flapping fledgling wings today as one of the state's newest chartered cities.

It reached city status recently when the state of Ohio included it among a number of commuities elevated to city incorporation.

Lying approximately 12 miles north from the heart of Cincinnati, it is the largest Negro-governed community in the United States, with a reported population of 5,531.

The city, in the hands of local citizens, has made much progress since its incorporation first as a village several years ago, and constitutes a landmark in Negro community progress.

It owns two fire trucks, two police ambulance cruisers, a new dump truck, a town hall which is currently being enlarged, permanently repaired streets, an efficient police force, and a capable fire department.

The city has been a model of study throughout the nation as a perfect example of a large well-ordered Negro community.

Responsible for the administration of Lincoln Heights, are: Mayor Arthur T. Shivers and a small council; Police Chief Oscar Gray and his force; Fire Chief Lawson and his group of volunteer firemen; city clerk Guy Westmoreland, and city treasurer, Mrs. Sallie Bennet.

Each feels he or she is part of the greatest Negro city in the world.

Lincoln Heights did not rise to its new position without various difficulties. The acquisition of property that was denied it solely because of bias has caused many a court fight.

In its first incorporation battle Lincoln Heights asked for property extending to the New York Central railroad, on its east boundary, which would have included the old Wright plant. This case now rests in the Ohio Supreme court.

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LINCOLN HEIGHTS, OHIO
Hamilton, Ohio

50 1954

MISS CARTER TEACHER, LINC'N H'IGHTS RETURNS FROM N. YORK

Butler County American Hamilton Ohio

Hamilton Girl Makes Good In All - Negro Governed City

Miss Nettie Carter, outstanding young woman of Hamilton and teacher in Lincoln Heights public schools, has returned from New York where she spent her vacation.

Sat 9-11-54

Miss Carter who began teaching in Lincoln Heights last year, returns this year as a second grade teacher. The officials and citizens of the City like her and she reports that she is happy in her job and pleased with the welcome atmosphere accorded her in Lincoln Heights.

Lincoln Heights, neighbor ~~to the south of Hamilton is an all-Negro~~ governed city of 7000 citizens. Mayor Arthur Shivers and many of the other officials are wel-known in Butler County.

Miss Carter is the daughter of Mrs. Ada Carter, 721 S. Monument ave.

The Lincoln Heights school has added many new teachers this year. The school itself is one of the most beautiful and most modern in the State of Ohio. More class rooms and cafeteria have been added.

Towns and Settlements-1935

Ohio.

TOLEDO, O.
BLADE

DEC 28 1935

COLORED GROUP SEEKS COLONY

Benefit Concert Planned to Aid Resettlement in Lucas County.

Settlement in Lucas County near Toledo

A benefit concert, proceeds of which will be given to a group of colored persons seeking to establish a resettlement colony in Lucas county, will be given here next month, with invitations extended to Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, wife of the President; Senator Robert J. Bulkley, Robert L. Vann, assistant United States attorney general, and others.

The Kentucky Harmony Singers, musical group known throughout the nation for their interpretation of folk songs, have offered their services free for the concert, to be given in the Civic auditorium, also donated, Jan. 29.

Rev

The group behind the movement to establish the colony near Toledo has been working on the project more than two years, meeting each week in the Indiana Avenue branch Y. M. C. A. to discuss plans and progress. The group has sent representatives to Washington to enlist federal aid and encouragement. The endeavor, according to the group's adviser, has been sponsored by many prominent Toledoans, including attorneys, university professors and the Toledo Council of Churches.

Proceeds from the concert will be used as first payment on land for actual establishment of the colony

Towns and Settlements—1929

Ohio.

93

Miles Heights village, Cleveland, Ohio.

OHIO VILLAGE HAS RACE MAYOR

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

2/9/29

CLEVELAND, O., Feb. 7.—Arthur Johnston took the oath of office Saturday at 3 p. m. which will make him mayor of Miles Heights village. In doing so he becomes the first colored man to head a municipality in Ohio.

Johnston has been acting as mayor for the past week since the death of the village's first mayor, Dennis H. von Benken. Previous to that time he had been president of the village council.

The community is made up of one-third colored and two-thirds white residents and Johnston's announcement Saturday that he would accept the office brought to him by a quirk of fate ended a period of quandary and speculation on the part of his fellow townsmen and himself.

Issues Statement

How he felt about the question of a colored man heading a municipality in which a decided majority of the population is white was shown in his statement before taking the oath.

"I firmly believe that I am capable of filling the office efficiently. I am familiar with all the improvements and legislation of the last year and a half since the village has been incorporated.

"I will assure everyone of a square deal and there will be no favors for anyone because of his race or creed.

"As in the past, I shall continue to act on a policy of fairness to everyone. Anyone may come before me and be assured of a hearing on any question and those questions will be decided on their own merits," his statement read.

At various times in the past when Mayor Von Benken was away Johnston acted as mayor. He has held the presidency of the council since he became councilman slightly over a year ago.

Johnston's popularity among the white residents was shown in his elections. In the last one he received 500 out of 750 votes cast, which means that at least half of the white voters favored him. He led the ticket in both elections.

He has been a staunch Republican all his life and was once an organization worker in Cleveland's colored wards. He dropped politics for a while but on moving to Miles Heights a few years ago he became active again in order to get some improvements, which he thought were needed. His work resulted in his election to the village council.

He has been repair foreman in the county road department for the past two years.

Johnston is 35 and came to Ohio 12 years ago from Michigan, where he had studied medicine for two years.

NEW YORK TIMES

FEB 3 1929

OHIO CITY HAS NEGRO MAYOR

He Succeeds to Office on the Death of Executive.

Special to The New York Times.

MILES HEIGHTS, Ohio, Feb. 2.—Arthur H. Johnston, a negro, today took the oath of office as Mayor of this city. He is the first negro to head a municipality in Ohio.

As president of the council he automatically became Mayor on the sudden death of Mayor Dennis H. von Benken a week ago, but delayed taking the office until today.

The population of Miles Heights is about 4,700, the great majority of which is white. Mayor Johnston received a large vote from white residents when he was elected to the council and has been one of the most popular members of that body.

"I will assure every one of a square deal and there will be no favors for any one because of his race and creed," he said in a little 'inaugural" address.

JOHNSON MAKES GOOD

Washington Tribune

3-31-29

Washington, D.C.

Arthur R. Johnson, Negro mayor of Miles Heights, just outside of Cleveland, has secured gas for the residents of his municipality. For more than two years the people had tried to get the East Ohio Gas Company to extend its service to their community. Most of these people are white, but are praising Johnson for this accomplishment.

Johnson assumed the office of mayor following the sudden death of Mayor D. H. Von Benken, in January.

CLEVELAND, O.
PLAIN DEALER

DEC 27 1929

HONORS NEGRO MAYOR

Inaugural Ball, Jan. 16, Planned by Miles Heights C. of C.

An inaugural ball in honor of Mayor Arthur R. Johnston of Miles Heights Village, the only Negro mayor in Ohio, will be held Thursday, Jan. 16, at Elks Hall, 2226 E. 55th Street, under auspices of the Miles Heights Chamber of Commerce.

Among those on the reception committee will be Councilmen Leroy N. Bundy and Clayborne George and Councilman-elect Lawrence O. Payne, Mrs. Lethia C. Fleming, Dr. O. A. Childres and Selmo C. Glenn.

Towns and Settlements-1929

~~Pennsylvania~~ Ohio

94

POST GAZETTE
PITTSBURGH, PA.

MAR 22 1929

Miles Heights Village - of Cleveland, Ohio.

NEGROES FETE RACE MAYOR

Ohio Village Head Is Given Keys of City By Kline.

Mayor Arthur R. Johnston of Miles Heights Village, O., said to be the only Negro mayor in the United States, climaxed his visit to Pittsburgh yesterday when he talked to a mixed audience of 200 in Schenley High school last night. The mayor was escorted to the City-County building by a band and police unit in the morning, and given the key to the city by Mayor Charles H. Kline and was a guest at luncheon in the Loendi Club at noon.

Rev. A. V. B. Hightower, president of the Afro-American Brotherhood of the World, who brought Mayor Johnston here, presided. Other speakers were Superintendent of Police Walsh, Clarence Webster, Mrs. Sarah M. McClanahan, Negro policewoman; Harry Feldman and Frank Sutton.

Towns and Settlements—1930

Ohio

INAUGURAL BALL GIVEN FOR OHIO'S RACE MAYOR

Arthur Johnston of Miles Heights Village Honored By Three Thousand.

Courier

By THELMA-LOUISE TAYLOR

CLEVELAND, O., Jan. 23—Inaugural balls are common as far as governors and presidents are concerned. But in Cleveland last night was given an inaugural ball for Mayor Arthur Johnson of Miles Heights Village, Ohio's only Negro mayor. The ball was held under the auspices of the Miles Heights Chamber of Commerce at the Elks' hall.

1-25-30

'Twas a mighty throng of nearly 3,000 happy souls that gaily danced to the strains of Al Jenkins' Cotton Pickers in the main ballroom and to John Doway's Musical Monarchs in the cabaret. Political Cleveland was out en masse—the three councilmen, Payne, George and Bundy—were there with their wives. Mr. and Mrs. Alexander H. Martin were among the crowd; Mrs. Lethia C. Fleming; the three county commissioners, J. H. Harris, Walter F. Cook and Jerry R. Zmunt.

Pittsburgh

During the intermission Councilman Payne acted as master of ceremonies and introduced Commissioner Harris, who in turn presented Mayor Johnston with a walnut gavel. Mayor Joseph Julius of Campbell, O., also was one of the honored guests and speakers.

Victory has been the keynote of Mayor Johnston's career—first as a member of the Miles Heights Board of Education; then as a member of the Miles Heights Council and now as mayor.

Miles Heights Village is a suburb of Cleveland with about 87 per cent white population. This year Mayor Johnston was opposed for election, but won by one of the largest margins the village has ever given to anyone.

THE EASIEST METHOD OF DEFEATING A NEGRO MAYOR

Call & Post

In every walk of life a man's racial relationship must outweigh his ability and qualifications. Miles Heights recently elected a Negro mayor who has proven himself the best mayor of the village, but because he is a Negro, efforts are now being made to annex the village to the city of Cleveland which will result, if effected, in the abolition of the office of mayor, thereby depriving the race of the honor of an Ohio mayor. 12-20-30

Miles Heights owes its development largely to Negroes who purchased an allotment in that section and helped develop a village. But it is too much for a Negro to hold the office of mayor, even in a village. Cleveland, Ohio

Miles Heights is doing fine under the administration of a Negro mayor. Let it continue its progress without annexation.

Miles Heights Village, Ohio

Ohio Village Of 1250 Persons Incorporates And Holds Gala Celebration Over Weekend

New York Age

Jul 7-17-48

URBANCREST, O.—After being a village since 189[illegible] this little town of 1250 persons was incorporated and a weekend celebration was held featuring a broadcast over Station WHKO in Columbus to mark the event.

New York, N.Y.

The town was first settled by 30 persons, including both Negroes and whites, and among the original inhabitants still here are Mrs. Amanda Skeaton and Charles O. Walker, both over 100 years each. 50

The town bought twice its quota of war bonds, and among the inhabitants who saw service in the armed forces wereNelson Trout and Charles Johnson, who promoted the idea of incorporating the village, on their return from the war.

New York Age

The men promoted a Starlight Progressive Club, and engaged the services of Attorney W S. Lyman of Columbus, who drew up the papers of incorporation.

Chairman of the town government is the Rev J. P. Wilson, pastor of the Baptist Church; secretary is Mrs. Grace Hairston and Alexander Trout, father of Nelson Trout is treasurer.

The school has five Negro teachers, a janitor and a bus driver. And there are two part-time policemen.

7-17-48

It is reported tnat the town has had no major crime in 20 years and it is now the state's second incorporated Negro village.

The population includes onetwelvth white, and the incorporation was made possible by the Mammoth Life Insurance Co., of Columbus.

New York, N.Y.

The organization also arranged and financed the broadcast over the weekend.

There are three churches in the village.

Towns - 1911
Negro.

CLEARVIEW, OKLAHOMA.

A NEGRO TOWN.

This town is situated on the Ft. Smith and Western R. R. in Okfuskee county, state of Oklahoma, ninty-six miles East of Guthrie and six miles West of Weleetka Junction. It is situated in the finest farming district in the state.

Clearview offers an exceptional opportunity for colored people either in business or farming. As a commercial proposition Clearview offers exceptional business opportunities; such as banking and mercantile business.

Clearview Patriarch

Cotton, grain, vegetables, potatoes and many other crops do exceptionally well here. The climate is genial, no extreme heat or cold. The average temperature compares with that of Tennessee or Arkansas.

10-5-11

Any colored man desiring a home could do no better than come to Clearview. Farm land can be bought at prices ranging from ten to twenty-five dollars per acre, it depends on the amount of improvement. New land can be leased for agricultural purposes for five years for (25 cts) twenty-five cents per acre per year.

Oklahoma has an exceptional school system. None better in the U. S. Churches and societies, considering the age of the state surpasses any state in the union. Every accomodation that can be had in any of the old states, can be obtained here under similar circumstances. Any way that a man can farm in the southern states he can farm here. General farming is run on the credit or the supply system, just as it is in the southern states. Cotton is the main crop, its general average production per acre is greater than any state in the union. Marketing facilieties are exceptional ly good. Oklahoma is well supplied with Rail Roads.

Clearview is the center of a great Negro population. There is room in Clearview and immediate territory to situate more than (50000) fifty thousand people.

You should come to Clearview at once and secure you a home where you can live in peace with all mankind; no hobbles here, no danger of mob violence. Good citizenship is demanded of every body. Dead beats and fakes can not stay here. It is the people with honesty, thrift and energy that we invite to come. The aw is enforced to the letter and good order is maintained.

Clearview has a good two story brick schoolhouse, four churches and the home of the PATRIARCHS of America, the greatest Negro organization in the United States, who is now perfecting plans for a great Negro college and widows' and orphans' home. Clearview offers land and water free gratis to any Mfg. Co. who will establish plant here and will give them plenty of labor. We will be glad to cor- pond with any individual or representative of a Mfg. enterprise

CLEARVIEW'S FOUNDATION.

Clearview boasts of having the most beautiful location on the Ft. Smith & Western Rail Road. She has in her boundary a peak of nature that one can stand there-on and see for 30 (thirty) miles away and at the foot of it is a stream of water that is worth much to the town. She has five Dry good and Grocery stores, one Drug store, one Printing office, several Real Estate dealers, one Cotton gin and a first class depot operated by a colored agent. Clearview is one of the leading points for shipping cattle in the state. The town is strictly all colored; and the inducement that she is offering colored people, should they take the advantage of it, it would bring about happiness to the Negro in the near future.

SEE, HERE YOU ARE!

You can buy land at fair prices and time to pay for it.
You can rent land for $3.00 per acre to farm.
You can rent land to farm on third and fourth.
You can buy stock on time to farm.
You can get your supplies on time to make a crop.
You can send your children to school.
You can attend church; we have many churches.
You can buy lots in Clearview on installments.
You can get all the help you need.

NONE GO AWAY DISSATISFIED.

There is plenty of room in Clearview and neighborhood for (500) five hundred families. We welcome you here. All the above applies to people with thrift and energy. Any further imformation, write.

J. E. Thompson, Townsite Manager.

R THE
COMMERCIAL CLUB **L. W. Warren, President.**

(over)

MOUND BAYOU A NEGRO TOWN

MOST EXCLUSIVE IN SOUTH

NOT A WHITE PERSON LIVING WITHIN FIVE MILES.

Mayor and Aldermanic Board All Negroes—Bank Controlled and Officered by Negroes—$100,000 Oil Mill Being Erected by Negroes.

CLARKSDALE, Miss., Aug. 15.—In yesterday's Commercial Appeal is noted a special from Montgomery, Ala., in which, with reference to the revocation of the charter of Hobson City, a negro town of that state, it is further stated that by this special legislation the "only colored mayor and aldermen in the South," perhaps, must return to just ordinary citizens."

It may be of interest to other sections to know, as it is a matter of common knowledge in Mississippi that Bolivar county has an exclusively negro town, Mound Bayou, incorporated, with a population of 400 or 500 negroes, its municipal government composed exclusively of members of that race.

The mayor, marshal, and a board composed of three aldermen, are all negroes. The bank, with a capital stock of $25,000, is owned, operated and controlled exclusively by members of the race, and an oil mill with a capital stock of $100,000, the stockholders and management negroes entire, is now in process of building.

There is not only not a white citizen in the town, but there is none within a radius of five or six miles of the place.

Mound Bayou is the home of some of the leading members of the race, and is an enterprising and prosperous little town on the Yazoo and Mississippi Valley railroad. The percentage of crime and lawlessness reported from the place is perhaps less than any town of its size in the South.

NEGROES WANT POST OFFICE.

Special to THE NEW YORK AGE: 11-9-11

Thomasville, Ark., Nov. 7.—The Negroes of this village have forwarded a petition, through Auditor R. W. Tyler, at Washington, to the Postmaster General, petitioning for the establishment of a postoffice here. Thomasville contains more than 250 families; that is, families to this number reside in and within a radus of three miles of the town, and this is the nearest railroad station for them. The nearest towns to Thomasville are Moro, five miles to the northwest, and Aubrey, four miles to the southeast. This village is on the Missouri and North Arkansas Railway, and lies just thirty miles northwest of Helena. Will H. Lane, principal of the schools, is the prime mover in the effort to have a postoffice established for the more than 250 families of this community. It is largely a Negro settlement, and it is hoped to some day have the town rival Mound Bayou for thrift and population.

o are looking for a location.

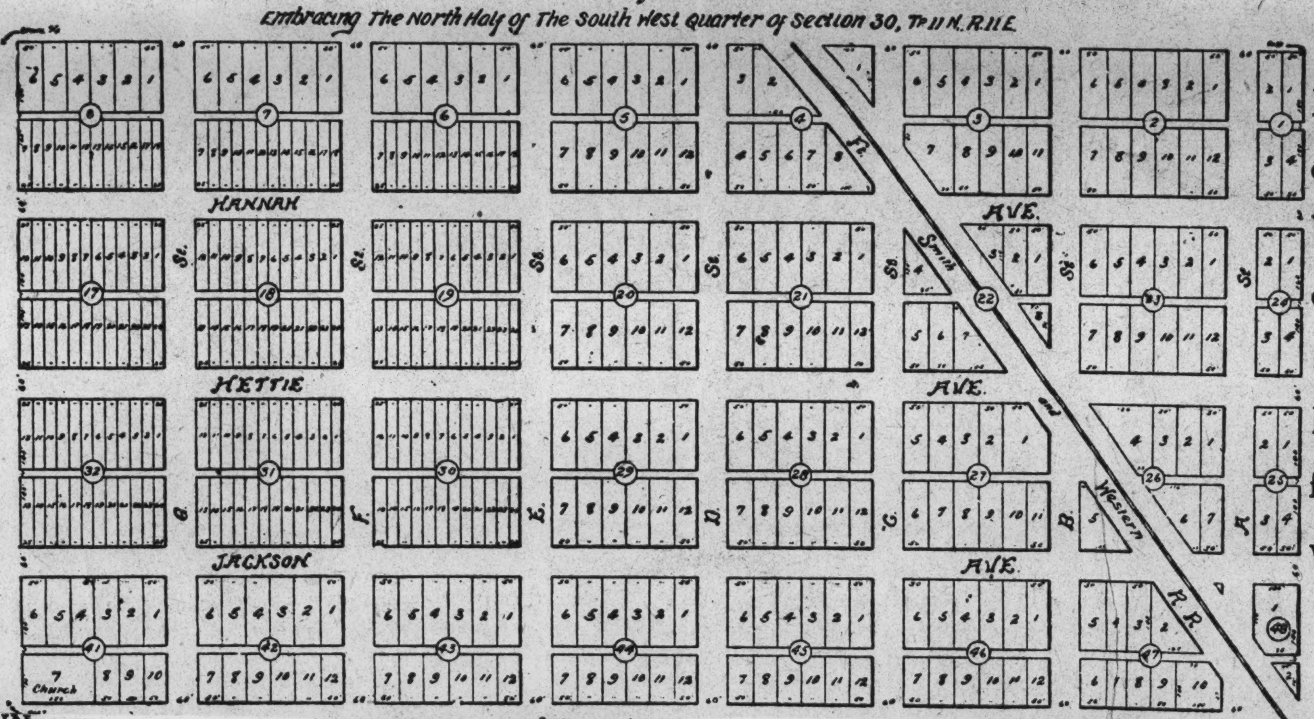
N. H. Starks, Sec.

YOUR CHANCE OR BUY A HOME!

FARM LANDS with Good Titles, Cash or five Years Time. Act To-day.

LINCOLN, NOW CLEARVIEW

You can and you will, if you come buy property in a Negro town, and build you a home and live in peace with all mankind. No hobbles here. You are perfectly free.


Embracing The North Half of The South West Quarter of Section 30, Tp 11 N. R 11 E.

Every avenue to success is open to You. You should not delay, come at once; don't spend money and lose time in hunting for a location, this will suit you.

A GOOD TOWN.

N. Y. Age 3-2-11

Of the many interesting experiments that have been made in Negro-town building, Mound Bayou, Mississippi, is in all respects, the community that gives us the largest hopes. We mean no disparagement to other efforts. Mound Bayou is a town, a real live community, and it is now old enough to look back to its doubtful days. Filled with ambitious, industrious, thriving people, to the number of 1,200, to the visitor it gives every evidence of solid growth. The streets are laid off as if the founder of the town believed that some day it would become a city, and the buildings and residences are built in modern style. The people dress better than well, and the schools and churches are a credit not to the Negroes of Mound Bayou alone, but to Negroes everywhere. It is the capital of a population of more than 3,000 people. Its railroad facilities are as good as any on the Valley line, and its commercial activity is beyond that of surrounding towns. It would be superfluous to mention its banking house, which is one of the widely known institutions of the south.

Two years ago Andrew Carnegie gave the town a beautiful library building. The structure is something more than a reading room; it is the center of the social and intellectual life of the people, somewhat of a clearing house of their ambitions. The library is in need of books—books of every kind, religious books, books of travel and fiction, reference works and standard histories. The Age suggests that the leading Negroes of each community in all sections, each send two good books to the library, in the care of Charles Banks, and in this way make a presentation of a library to the town, in the name of the race. Nowhere in the south is there a larger number of young people trying as hard to throw off ignorance of every kind than may be found in Mound Bayou.

In respect of this, we may as well observe here that nowhere in the south are there wider or more inviting opportunities for solid men, business men, professional men, farmers and mechanics, than are offered in Mound Bayou. The community needs a good dentist. It needs a first-class undertaker, and an architect could locate there and enjoy a good and lucrative business within a forty mile territory in either direction. We have heard that a co-operative store is soon to be opened, but a shoe store would pay, and a harness maker will find much to do. A contractor with capital sufficient to operate a lumber yard would be kept busy from Clarksdale straight through to Merigold, and farmers in search of good land, excellent markets, and every freedom and privilege, will find Mound Bayou unexcelled as a home for their children and as a center for their products. The communnity has now in course of erection a $100,000 oil mill, the stock of which the Negroes of Mississippi ought speedily to buy up. There are four cotton gins, one saw mill and other factories in course of erection.

In all the south there is no better farming land. The best cotton soil in a cotton country is to be found in Bolivar county where a bale to the acre is a common sight. This land offers an opportunity for an investment that will double its value in 25 years. There is need of capital to develop the resources of the territory of which Mound Bayou is the flourishing capital. In no community within the range of our acquaintance can there be found so many solid men as Mound Bayou may claim as citizens. There is not a talker among them; they are all doers of the word. Isiah T. Montgomery, who founded the community, Charles Bank, J. W. Francis, Mayor Creswell and A. A. Cosey, and the men associated with them in the really great work they are doing, are each a solid, progressive, careful man. Of such stuff are all real pioneers made. Mound Bayou is more than we can tell, and in the coming years it will become the civic capital of southern Negroes.

As regards its educational advantages, while the public schools and the Mound Bayou Normal are doing commendable work, what is needed there, and what has long been the need, as Mr. Montgomery has always pointed out, is an industrial school, not a make-believe school such as we have too many of in the south, but a well-equipped institution in which the trades and scientific farming would be emphasized. For only

through these will come the economic emancipation for the people, and through them alone will the generation just emerging be able to hold what the fathers are building and improve upon their labors.

Charles Banks, the banker and leader of his people in the state, will, we are sure, be glad to correspond with any person who may become interested in the town of Mound Bayo[illegible] We have been there, and know whe[illegible] we speak.

Wybark, a town occupied wholly by Negroes, containing several hundred inhabitants and located seven miles north of Muskogee, Okla., has been virtually wiped out by fire. Damage is estimated at $7500 with $600 insurance.

Christian Recorder 2-16-11

Hon. Wm. L. Jones, of Boley, Okla., has been appointed Post-master by President Taft with a salary of $1,100 per year. Boley has about 3,000 population, all colored. One firm of business men transacted over $70,000 worth of business last year, and several others, who have done as much. There are 15 stone and brick buildings and hundreds of fine homes. The telegraph operator is a Negro, and all the officials of the city government. The "Boley Progress" is the organ of the town.

Christian Recorder 2-9-11

LEGISLATE OUT NEGRO TOWN.

Hobson City Only Exclusive Black Place in Alabama Loses Charter.

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Aug. 13.—After all, Hobson City, the only exclusive negro town in the state, and one of the few in the South, has been legislated out of existence. The town is near Oxford, and Representative Cooper has been besieged by whites to pass a bill recalling its charter.

He failed at the last session, his bill being declared invalid after the legislature adjourned, but this time he wins, when the governor signs the measure, and the only colored mayor and aldermen in the South, perhaps, must return to just ordinary citizens. The reason given is that the negroes have become a nuisance, growing so many of them in the same place.

Towns—1911.

Negro

Tullahassee Realty Company.

The American 9-15-11.

Wagoner Okla

◆ ◆ ◆

Tullahassee, Okla.

Best Farming Country in Oklahoma.

125 CHOICE LOTS LEFT

$7 TO $150 per lot.

Easy Monthly Payments.

$3.5o To $10 Down.

8 Miles from Progressive Muskogee.

Tullahassee ATTRACTIVE NEGRO TOWN. Railroad Station on the M. K. & T. Ry.
STORES CHURCHES GOOD SCHOOLS POST OFFICE

Close to Government School for Creek Freedmen. Brick Soil. Fine Opportunity for Brick Plant.
A Short Distance to the Popular Vann's Lake Pleasure Resort. Plenty Good Fishing, Boating, Etc.

Cotton Gin & Grain Elevator.

Tullahassee Realty Co.

President—A. J. MASON, Treas—W. W. WATERS, Secretary—A. WHITE.
TULLAHASSEE, OKLA.

HELP US BUILD A NEGRO TOWN

10-7-11

Nashville Clarion

The United Helping Society of Tennessee, was incorporated Aug. 3rd, 1889., and by the management of its business affairs, at Antioch, Tenn., built a small village town in three years which now stands to its credit, ten miles from Nashville on the N. and C. Railroad. When the Society first bought real estate for building sites, there the land could be bought for forty and fifty dollars per acre, but in a short time it could not be bought for one hundred and fifty dollars per acre.

Now the Society has called a mass meeting which convenes on Sept. 4th, 1911, at Hortense, Tenn., for the purpose of buying one thousand three hundred and fifty acres of land for the purpose of building a colored town there, and also of purchasing fifty acres jointly with the Nashville City District Association for an Industrial Agricultural School and Widows and Orphans Home. In the present sitting of the said Association, a resolution was adopted that the Moderator Rev. J. C. Harding and Revs. J. H. Graham and I. W. Easley be appointed as messengers to the convention above named, to confer with the Executive Board of the United Helping Society of Tennessee in deciding on a location for the home.

It is the desire of each of the Boards that they purchase said fifty acres at Hortense, as they are each working for the same purpose. In union there is strength, and in numbers there is power. It is hoped that our business men will take interest in the company which will be organized in the interest of our race. Our sons and daughters must be employed and we must furnish them employment.

The following persons have the number of acres opposite their names: G. P. Woodson, H. C. Swayne, E. M. Lawrence, J. B. Mullins, Dr. J P. Crawford, James Bumpass, T. Clay Moore, G. F. Anderson, Wm. Parrish G. W. Dickerson and J. C. Fields. fifty acres each. A. O. Kenny, J. H. Kidd, Mack Starnes, 100 acres each. D. C. Robertson, J. Fuller, 75 acres each Lafayette Goodwin, J. W. Carter and G. W. Hampton, 25 acres each.

J. B. MULLINS. Gen'l. Mgr.

EXCLUSIVE NEGRO COLONY IN CALIFORNIA

Allensworth is Located Between San Francisco and Los Angeles

IDEAL CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

Land Can Be Farmed the Year Around—Colony Consists of Several Thousand Acres of Rich Land.

1-19-11

Special to THE NEW YORK AGE.

San Francisco, Cal., Jan. 16.—In sunny California, Tulare County, about half way between San Francisco and Los Angeles, there has been established a colony exclusively for colored people—where it is being demonstrated to the world the capabilities and fitness of Negroes to govern themselves and organize and manage their own enterprises.

Col. Allen Allensworth, U. S. A., retired, is the founder of this colony, and for the past three years has done nothing but devote his entire time and energy to the practical development and realization of his life-long dream of an exclusive colony under the ideal conditions existing in the favored State of California.

The colony consists of several thousand acres of the wonderfully rich, deep, level, silt land that has made the San Joaquin Valley famous the world over. On this land can be produced practicaly any kind of semi-tropical fruits as well as all vegetables, and alfalfa to such a great extent that dairying and hog-raising will in all probability become the greatest source of revenue. Deep flowing artesian wells furnish the water for irrigation and domestic purposes as a nominal cost.

Colony Still In Its Infancy.

In addition to the farming tracts there is a well laid out town which can now boast a hotel, schoolhouse, post office, local and long distance telephone exchange, warehouse, stores and many substantial and attractive homes. The school is the only one exclusively for Negroes in the West, and Prof. W. A. Payne is the only colored teacher on the Pacific Coast.

This colony is still in its infancy, but now, under the management of Messrs. Hahne and Monk, general agents for the property, it is advancing beyond al expectations, and will, before long, be another milestone in the race's march of progress.

There are approximately eighty people living in Allensworth at this writing, but a large influx is expected in time for the spring planting, as about three-fourths of the acreage has been sold, and also a large number of town lots.

The land is being sold principally in five and ten acre tracts for $110 an acre, with water for irrigation; $2 an acre down and $2.00 an acre a month. Town lots are selling from $100 up—$5.00 down and $5.00 a month.

Under the ideal climatic conditions, where the land can be farmed the year around, in a locality where Negroes are warmly welcomed and urged to come and accept the high wages that prevail where labor is scarce, where land will pay for itself in a short time, on a trans-continental railroad, where health, independence and prosperity await—there is the "Land of Opportunity."

Some of those now located at Allenworth are Oscar Oacre, N. N. Tacons, George P. Black, W. A. Payne, G. W. Hipson. S. S. Richardson, W. A. Wells and S. W. Singleton.

Inquiries addressed to THE AGE office will be forwarded to the general agents.

THE NEGRO'S TOWN

Reports Progress In Every Direction and Invites New-Comers of the Right Kind—Chas. Banks, the Business Genius—Montgomery Interests Building a Brick Store—Chief Mentor Cosey Gratified With His Organization.

3-9-11

Regular Correspondence of THE AGE.

Mound Bayou, Miss, March 7.—Whenever we come to discuss substantial Negro enterprises, the Mound Bayou Oil Mill and Manufacturing Co. stands out. The buildings are completed, the engine and boilers have been installed and a deal of other necessary work has been done. It is a fact that the promoters of this undertaking are never asleep, and they have resolved that the wheels must turn over. A general meeting of the stockholders has been called at Mound Bayou for March 15. It goes without saying that the stockholders' meeting will bring together a large number of leading men and women of the race from all parts of the State and from several other States. Hon. Isaiah T. Montgomery, president; Dr. A. A. Cosey, secretary; Col. Chas. Banks, manager, and John W. Francis, treasurer, are busy preparing for the stockholders' meeting.

When the Stringer Grand Lodge of Masons met at Holly Springs, Miss., last December and elected W. A. Morgan, of Shelby, Grand Master, and Col. Charles Banks, secretary and treasurer of the Masonic Benefit Association, it was a step in the right direction, and every day proves that the order is going forward. Of course it is generally known that the Masonic Benelt Association was moved from Edwards, Miss., to Mound Bayou, just after the new year. The office force numbers nearly a dozen, with Mrs. L. M. Young as chief clerk. Col. Banks is fast systematizing the work of the association, and the craft is well pleased.

We have had a good many prominent persons from over the State as well as from out of the State, to visit Mound Bayou, recently, prospecting. Prominent among them were Messrs. J. B. Brown, D. A. Bassett and W. L. Houston of Alexandria, La., and Dr. D. A. Smith of Monroe, La. These gentlemen were brought to the city through the influence of George H. Mayes, Jr., the general traveling agent of the Mound Bayou Oil Mill and Manufactuding Co. Mr. Mayes knows how to "do business" and get the proper results. Rev. R. T. Sims, D. D., of Canton, Miss., who is president of the Baptist Educational Convention of Mississippi, was here last week. Dr. Sims is also Editor of The Mississippi Baptist, a strong weekly newspaper.

New buildings are going up continually in nearly every part of the city, and there is no telling when the "rush" will stop. Most of the buildings are dwellings or homes for new comers. We need mode citizens of the right type. C. F. Bolton, a large land owner and successful business man, has completed his residence and moved his family here. Lawyer G. W. Malone, confidential man in the Masonic Benefit Association, is fast making his way at Mound Bayou. He is a well-rounded, clean-cut gentleman. Mrs. Malone visited him recently. Their home is at Coahoma, Miss.

The Knights and Daughters of Tabor of Mississippi are still making headway as the largest fraternal society of Mississippi. Dr. A. A. Cosey is the Chief Grand Mentor. With Dr. Cosey at the head the order will make progress. He has recently visited Water Valley, Oxford, Dodsville, Dundee, Maud, Clayton, Evansville, Clarksdale and Greenville, in the interest of the work, and reports success.

Dr. S. P. Felder, Presiding Elder of the Greenville District of the A. M. E. Church was here recently, and organized a new lodge of the Independent Order of Eagles, of which he is the head.

Rev. W. P. Q. Byrd, pastor of Bethel A. M. E. Church, is still meeting with good success with his church work. He would make a splendid delegate to the next General Conference.

F. D. Morris of Helena, Ark., son of Dr. E. C. Morris, is "making good" a sa clerk in the Bank of Mound Bayou.

About the first of last year E. P. Booze, son-in-law of Hon. Isaiah T. Montgomery, returned from Colorado Springs, Colo., where he had lived for more than five years. Mr. Booze began at once to look after the Montgomery interests as general manager, and is still proving to be a valuable assistant. As manager of the Demonstration, Mr. Booze is "doing business."

Dr. S. H. Harris will soon have his drug store opened. He has recently fitted up his office, which is hard to beat by a physician in a large city.

Dr. W. P. Kyle who has charge of "special" business or affairs of Col. Charles Banks, is anxiously waiting to be joined by Mrs. Kyle and the "kids" from Arcola.

All of our schools are crowded. At the Baptist College, Prof. R. McCorkle, president, they have them "wedged in." The Mound Bayou Normal with Prof. B. F. Ousley, principal, is filled up. The public school with Mrs. G. A. Bryant and her assistants is crowded.

The farmers are busy, and the boll weevil had better hurry up or get out.

James A. Booker, representative of the United States Government, in the capacity of Demonstration Farming Agent, is doing a fine work.

The Green Grove Baptist Church, pastored by Dr. A. A. Cosey, has decided to erect a brick edifice, and will begin at once to raise money for that purpose. This is the largest congregation in this section of the count and Dr. Cosey's pastorate has been very successful. It is generally known that Dr. Cosey is the corresponding secretary of the National Baptist Benefit Association, which demands no little of his time, and yet he looks after his church work in a satisfactory manner. He is planning a trip to Texas, some time soon in the interest of the national work.

Hon. Isaiah T. Montgomery, the sage of Mound Bayou, is erecting a nice large brick building, in which he will have his office and store, as well as the post office. It will prove a splendid addition to the town, and will give Mr. Montgomery larger and better conveniences with which to handle his many affairs.

MISSISSIPPI TO HAVE ANOTHER NEGRO TOWN

Application Made to Gov. Noel Asking That Village Be Incorporated

ABOUT THE TOWN OF RENOVA

Consists of 220 Acres, Valued at $6,600 —Located in Bolivar County Near Thriving Town of Mound Bayou.

7-27-11

Special to THE NEW YORK AGE.

Mound Bayou, Miss., July 25.— Mississippi is to have another incorporated town controlled by Negroes. It will be known as Renova and will begin as an incorporated village with 132 citizens.

The following application has beer made to Gov. Noel:

Renova, Miss., 1911.

To His Excellency, Gov. E. H. Noel,
Governor of the State of Misssissippi, Jackson, Miss.:

We, the undersigned resident citizens and legal electors of the unincorporated Village of Renova, in Bolivar County, Miss., respectfully petition you to incorporate said village. The metes and bounds of said village to be as follows, to-wit:

The south half of the northwest quarter of section 4. The north half of the northwest half of section 9. Township 22, north range 5 west, in Bolivar County, State of Mississipi. Thus beginning at the corner of sections 4, 5, 8 and 9, Township 22, north range 5 west, and running due north, along the line between sections 4 and 5 4,237 feet; thence north 1,320 feet to the place of beginning, mak 220 acres, valued at $6,600 in toto.

Your petitions would show that the inhabitants of said proposed village number 132 souls. Your petitioners would show that two-thirds of the qualified electors signed the foregoing petition, and that said petition has been published in a newspaper, in said county, circulated in said proposed village for three weeks, and has been posted in three public places in said proposed village. Your petitioners would further petition that your Excellency will appoint D. E. Hays, Mayor; R. D. Wallace, alderman; S. R. Dawson, alderman; Robert Brown, alderman; J. M. McGrigg, marshal.

Your petitioners would show that the proposed village is not within one mile of any incorporated municipality.

Names of the qualified electors of the Village of Renova, Miss.: R. D. Wallace, S. R. Dawson, D. E. Hays, J. M. McGrigg, N. D. Taylor, W. L. Smith, D. A. Anderson, B. E. Ousley, C. W. Ousley, Robert Brown, Sandy McGinnis, George Hanks, H. K. Earls, C. A. Smith, J. G. Gillard, Joe Young, Hardy Snipes, W. D. Smith, L. J. Claiborne, J. G. Epps, K. W. Crucup.

Renova will be the second Negro town in Mississippi. It is in the same county as Mound Bayou.

SEEN AND HEARD WHILE PASSING

(S. Tutt Whitney, Smart Set Co.)

Freeman 12-2-11

Boley

What is Boley? Where is Boley? It is safe to assume that nine-tenths of the colored people in this country have never heard of Boley, therefore I will proceed to enlighten.

Boley is a town near central Oklahoma with 3,500 inhabitants, populated and controlled exclusively by Negroes—not a white person living within a radius of ten miles.

Boley is the agricultural center for hundreds of prosperous Negro farmers. The first thing one hears when the train stops at Boley is the whirr of the cotton gin, installed and operated by colored men. Mr. E. C. Smith, baggage master, attends to your luggage. O. C. Fitzgerald, station master, will sell you a ticket to any part of the world, while Miss Anna Miller, operator, receives telegraphic instructions that will give you a safe right-of-way while en route.

When the "Smart Set" car stopped at Boley it was immediately surrounded by a crowd of boys conspicuous for their intelligence and cleanliness. Mr. McLeod, the mayor of Boley, extended the hand of welcome and the freedom of the city.

Looking up the main street of Boley, the first surprise is the number of brick buildings one sees. Then all the streets are paved with concrete. Walking a distance of two blocks I counted nine brick buildings in the process of erection. The most imposing edifice in Boley is the beautiful Masonic Temple. It could well grace Fifth avenue, New York. The town is well lighter; the light and power plant was installed and is operated by Negroes.

Grocery stormes, drug stores, clothing stores, dry goods stores, and all kinds of business necessary to supply the demands of a city are found in Boley. They are clean, well stocked and run upon modern ideas. The proprietors and clerks are intelligent and courteous. In the residence section there is an absence of tumble-down shacks so commonly seen in mixed towns.

The Farmers' and Merchants' Bank, capitalized at $10,000, with J. H. Williamson, president; E. J. Turner, cashier, is run on a safe basis and has the confidence of the community. W. L. Jones is the postmaster. A beautiful brick postoffice is now in the process of erection. Three brick school houses are to be seen. They are well attended and presided over by competent teachers. G. W. Wood, professor of the Commercial School, proposes to erect a gymnasium and skating rink for the pleasure of his scholars and the public next spring.

The "Smart Set" Company had the honor and pleasure of opening the Masonic Temple Theater. It was crowded to capacity. That the performance pleased was evidenced by enthusiastic manifestations of approval from the audience.

Mr. W. H. McLeod, mayor, governs Boley with intelligence and diplomacy. These, with a knowledge of municipal government, has won for him the confidence and high esteem of the citizens of Boley. A police department is not necessary. The deputy sheriff informed us that he had not made an arrest in two years. The people of Boley live like a well-regulated, good-mannered family.

If you wish to live where you can enjoy al lthe rights and privileges of an American citizen, where you can poke out your chest and say, "I'm a man,' without dodging, go to Boley.

Towns — 1917

Bookertee is the name of a new Negro town of Oklahoma. As its name suggests, it is in honor of the late Booker T. Washington. One of the enterprises is the zinc smelter. Report has it that five cellars of the first unit of the smelter is completed and awaits a railroad siding and material to be shipped. Men are also drilling test holes for coal with prospects of success. Everything points to a flourishing town in a few years. The spirit of the founders is to be commended. They have caught the vision right; and they are governing themselves accordingly. America is a very great country. Men do not need to live amid social strife if they do not care to. Furthermore, all such movements when successful add to manhood, compelling respect through endeavor and achievements, thus enabling men to meet men on better terms.

The Freeman 4/28/17

N Y Age 9-13-17

North Buxton, Canada's Negro town, is situated nine miles from Chatham, Ont., on the Michigan Central Railway. The town has a population of six hundred and is an old settlement dating back from the Civil War. North Buxton has a schoolhouse which is well kept with beautiful grounds. Several families own automobiles.

POST

Houston, Texas

APR 1 - 1917

NEGRO CARNIVAL.

Plans have been perfected for the holding of a six day spring carnival at Independence Heights, an exclusive negro town, located at the end of the Studewood car line, about six miles from Houston. One day of the week has been set aside as inauguration day, at which time those who are elected at the regular city election on April 3 will be installed in office. A heated campaign is now being waged in the little city and the voters are aboue equally divided into two factions. The carnival program calls for horse and automobile races every day, beginning April 16, and closing on San Jacinto day, April 21, with a baseball game between the colored High school and Houston college. Local headquarters have been established at No. 413 Milam street, where the business will be carried on until the opening day.

EXAMINER

D BER 17, 1917

Plans for Negro Park Will Be Exhibited

Plans for a new subdivision, to be known as Dunbar Park and inhabited entirely by negroes, will be exhibited Wednesday afternoon in the assembly hall of the Wabash avenue Y. M. C. A. under the auspices of the Arts and Letters Society. The site has not been selected.

TIMES

Washington, D. C.

7 1917

Delegation From Allport Negro Colony Makes Gift.

President Wilson has had little time of late for rocking-chair repose, but if he cares to use it, there's a rocking chair nowadays in the anteroom of the President's private office. Secretary Tumulty put it there after a large delegation from the Allport Negro Colony, of Allport, Arkansas, journeyed to the White House to present it to the President.

Mr. Wilson was ill, but Secretary Tumulty accepted the gift and said he would put it where the President would see it.

The rocking chair, which is of quartered oak, was made by the students of the Industrial Trade School of the Allport Negro Colony. The colony has as its motto, "A New Negro and a Better Arkansas." It is said the colony owns 35,000 acres in Lonoke county.

The delegation to the White House was headed by Newport F. Henry.

Senator John Sharp Williams, Gov. Bilbo and Congressman Humphreys Friendly—Mayor Eugene P. Booze in New York in Interest of Mound Bayou's Educational Development.

New York Age 3/15/17

There is one section of Mississippi where the colored population has increased instead of diminished since the wave of Negro migration struck the South—the entire Yazoo-Mississippi Delta. According to Eugene P. Booze, Mayor of Mound Bayou, Miss., who is in New York in the interest of this widely known Negro community, hundreds of colored farmers have located in the delta in recent months. Even the population of the town of Mound Bayou is on the increase.

In other parts of the State hundreds of colored persons have left for the North and many are preparing to make their exit when the weather gets warmer. Mr. Booze thinks that in the Mississippi Delta Negroes are more contented, due in a large measure to the great opportunities the rich delta lands provide for agricultural purposes. The optimistic sentiment radiated by Mound Bayou also has something to do with this disinclination to leave the South for the North.

Mr. Booze, who is business manager of the Farmers' Co-operative Mercantile Company, an organization made up of fifty-two colored farmers which helps to provide for the mercantile needs of the community, is in the city raising a fund of $10,000 to be used in the erection and equipment of a public school building where elementary education will be taught to the children of the town and colony. The American Missionary Association, which for years has maintained a high school in the town, has promised to deed a four-acre tract for a public school site contingent on the town officials raising the necessary sum.

Influential White Citizens Co-operating.

The interest of the leading white people in the progress of the Town of Mound Bayou and its environs may be gleaned from the following open letter signed by United States Senator John Sharp Williams, Gov Theo. G. Bilbo and B. G. Humphreys, who represents the citizens of Mound Bayou in the lower House of Congress:

Washington, D. C., March 6, 1917.
To Whom It May Concern:

This letter will serve to introduce Eugene P. Booze, Mayor of the Town of Mound Bayou, an exclusive Negro municipality which is the postoffice and trading point of nearly six thousand industrious Negro farmers who own and occupy about forty thousand acres of rich cotton growing delta land on the main line of the Yazoo and Mississippi Valley Railway, nearly midway between Memphis, Tenn., and Vicksburg, Miss.

The colony was located in 1887 by Isiah T. Montgomery and a few other former slaves of the late Hon. Jefferson Davis. Mound Bayou derived its name from an enormous mound of earth near the junction of several bayous that form a part of a natural drainage system which has been supplemented by modern canals that renders the land susceptible to a high state of cultivation.

The village was incorporated about twenty-six years ago, and a new charter was granted in 1912, raising it to the second class of towns, enabling the officials to devise and consider plans for all necessary civic improvements. The town and colony has fairly kept pace in growth and development with most of the delta towns, but an urgent need is now felt for capital to foster public agricultural and industrial training and to properly promote civic improvement, such as good roads and sanitation.

The white people of Mississippi are deeply interested in the progress and success of this Negro town and colony. They have and will extend every aid possible to its citizens, but owing to the wide and continually growing demands for funds to carry forward the general development going on in the State, it cannot be expected that this community will be able to secure adequate capital through the customary channels for its needs without an appeal for help from kindly disposed white friends outside the State.

It is understood from Mayor Booze that it is his intention to present the financial needs of his town and colony to white friends throughout the country, and it is hoped that he will receive generous assistance along this line. He is in every way fitted to handle and properly account for any sum intrusted to his keeping and management.

(Signed)
THEO. G. BILBO, Governor.
B. G. HUMPHREYS, M. C.,
Third Mississippi District.
JOHN SHARP WILLIAMS,
United States Senator.

Mayor Booze says that Isaiah T. Montgomery, Charles Banks, John Francis and other prominent citizens are working hard to improve conditions in the community along economic, educational, sanitary and civic lines, and are receiving the support of influential white people. W. P. Holland, President of the Planters Bank, Clarksdale; State Senator W. P. Parks, of Merigold; Attorneys Owen and Roberts, of Cleevland, Miss., and Attorney H. L. Wilkinson, of Shelby, are counted among the warm friends of Mound Bayou.

The passage of the Flood Control bill during the last session of Congress, authorizing the expenditure of millions of dollars for the protection of farm lands, will mean much to the Mississippi Delta, for the soil, without visitation of destructive floods will prove more productive yearly.

Idlewild
Lake County
County Mich
A summer resort
for colored
People.

Boynton, Okla., is a colored town in the oil and farming region. Many of its inhabitants are wealthy. One of them George W. Davis, sold his oil interest last year for $75,000.

The Crisis April, 1917. P 297.

Marlborough, Mich., is the latest "Negro City" it is incorporated with a hotel, school, theatre, houses, and factory.

The Crisis April, 1917. P 298.

Towns – 1914

8

Hamner

Sumner Co.

Negro Towns

Oklahoma

Livingstone Co.

McClod N.C.

600 pop. 3 miles out from Raleigh Negro Town

Newport, Del

New Bedford Tenn

Six miles from Chattanooga

Pop. 100.

Negro settlement McIntyre, Jefferson Co. O.

Randolph Slave Settlement, Mercer Co. O

Victorville, San Bernardino county, Calif.

Some 20,000 acres land said to be owned by colored people

Apple section

Westerville Republic Aug 1/14

NEGROES ENFORCE LAW

Anniston, Ala., August .—Hobson City, the exclusively negro town, has taken the spirit of Anniston in the enforcement of the Prohibiti[illegible] law. Its officials are making it hot for law violators. Norman O'Neal, the mayor, fined E. D. Conley $50 and cos[illegible] and sentenced him to serve "on [illegible] streets, the service on the streets being suspended during good behavior

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San Francisco Chronicle

OCT 29 1914

Oklahoma's Flourishing Negro City

Boley, Okla., is the largest negro city in the United States. It is surrounded by some of the richest land in the world and has in its neighborhood most valuable mines of coal and wells of oil.

Boley was founded in 1904 by Thomas M. Haynes of Texas in the rolling prairie land on the Fort Smith and Western Railroad between the Deep Fork and North Canadian rivers, and is in the heart of a vast region capable of producing such diversified crops as corn, wheat, cotton, potatoes, alfalfa, apples, peaches, grapes, berries and the common garden vegetables.

This negro town is "making good." Today it has over eighty business concerns, an electric lighting plant, efficient water works, two banks, several attractive churches, a high school worth over $15,000, a normal and industrial school supported by the C. M. E. Church, flourishing fraternal orders, a Masonic temple of the Oklahoma jurisdiction worth $35,000, a telephone system, several cotton gins, a chamber of commerce, a city hall, a negro station agent and a negro Mayor.—Southern Workman.

THE NEGRO AND SELF-GOVERNMENT!

The Question Frequently Asked by the Caucasian Ably Answered by Many Oklahoma Towns

BOLEY, WITH 2,500 SOULS, A STRIKING EXAMPLE

Boley is Not Governed by Force of Arms, but by Minnions of Peace, and has Orderly Conducted Elections for the Selection of Governing Officials—It has been Called the "Million Dollar Black City," Because the Volume of Business Transacted There in 1913 was More than $1,000,000.

(By Ralph W. Tyler.)

BOLEY, Okla., July 14.—To prove that the Negro, as a race, is inacapable of self-government, such proud Caucasians as would arbitrarily assume to serve as accusers, judge and jury for the race, are want to point to that revolution-torn black republic, Haiti. If such such would but turn their eyes here to the southwest, here in the United States, they would behold the existence in one state alone—Oklahoma—of eight exclusively Negro towns that are conclusively demonstrating the Negro's capacity for self-government, and as a town builder and community conservator. Boley, Taft, Red Bird, Langston, Tatums, Brooksville, Vernon and Dentiesville, all in the state of Oklahoma, testify to the innate peacefulness, and the acquired constructiveness of the American Negro. Boley with its 2,500 exclusively Negro population within the corporate limits of the town, and its 10,000 Negro population within a radius of ten miles, which population is a direct contributant to the municipality, is the largest of the eight exclusively Negro towns in Oklahoma, and the largest exclusively Negro town on the western hemisphere, being three times the size of Mound Bayou, Miss., the much exploited Negro settlement.

I spent several days here in the interest of that wonderfully constructive organization which Dr. Booker T. Washington inspired into existence—the National Negro Business League, carefully investigating this exclusively Negro town whose stability, orderly government, carefully and conservatively administered, presents the conclusive proof that the American Negro is capable of self-government.

In Haiti a standing army, whose maintenance imposes a burdensome tax upon the country's limited resources, preserves the life of the republic, and at the same time contributes to continual disastrous and bloody revolutions. In Boley no soldiery patrol its borders, its streets, or guard its regularly elected officials. Boley is governed not by force of arms, but by the minnions of peace. Boley has orderly conducted elections for the selection of governing officials, but no armed revolutions to enthrone an executive. Boley's taxes are assessed by and with the consent of the governed, and not by arbitrary officials who "assumed" office and power through might. Boley typifies the constructive propaganda of Booker T. Washington rather than the destructive intrigues which foment in the black republic just beyond America's southern sea-kissed border. Boley represents Negro advancement, not Negro retardence.

Boley, at first, was but a mere camp of Negro railroad construction hands whose foreman was a white man named Boley, from whom it took its name. It [illegible] by T. M. Haynes, a Negro who is still living, and a valued citizen of the town, to witness the fruition of his altruistic plans. It was incorporated, and chartered as a municipality in 1904. The town, comprising 260 acres, laid out with broad streets crossing at right angles, has a bonded indebtedness of but $32,000, and a school district bonded indebtedness of $17,000. This bonded indebtedness is secured by property within Boley whose taxable value is $450,000, and by property within the county whose taxable value is $800,000, making a total of $1,250,000 in property to secure the payment of $49,000 bonded indebtedness.

This little town here in the far southwest has been called the "Million Dollar Black City," because the volume of business transacted here, in 1913, reached a million dollars, and because the value of the city's realty and the amount its citizens has invested in business totals one million dollars.

In 1913 the Negro merchants of Boley handled $192,000 worth of business, her Negro farmers handled $250,000 worth of food stuff and live stock, her Negro cotton buyers bought $325,000 worth of cotton, and her local postoffice did a $252,300 worth of business, $250,000 of which represented money passing through the money order department. The one bank there, capitalized, controlled and conducted by Negroes, had individual deposits at the close of business December 31, 1913, amounting to $55,000. This financial showing for a community composed exclusively of people but half a century removed from slavery—from a period when the right to acquire and hold property was denied them both by public sentiment and law, is a splendid attestation to the thrift and industry of the Negro.

The residences, public buildings and stores of Boley compare most favorably with those of any town of like size whose controlling population is made up of the dominant race. In fact there are many white older towns throughout the West of this, and greater, size whose residences, public buildings and stores do not compare with Boley's.

There is a popular belief existing, which I, too, shared before coming here and seeing for myself, that Boley is but a mere settlement of incapable imitators, ignorant lawmakers like some who obtruded themselves into public office in the South during the reconstruction period; that a few log huts and make-shift houses, and stores, that are stores only in name, constitutes Boley; that the municipal government is a farce comedy, and that "modern" is a word as foreign here as phonetics to a Brazilian monkey that quenches his thirst in Col. Roosevelt's River of Doubt. The town is well illuminated by electric lights furnished by the city's modern electric light and power plant; the main street, in its entire length, has granilithic sidewalks, the stores are substantially built, well stocked and orderly conducted; the church edifices are very creditably indeed, and the town's bank building and Masonic temple are the equal of any town with three times its population, both being brick, the Masonic temple being a $35,000 structure. Boley is a modern small town.

The public school building is a perfectly modern, two-story, eight-room, brick of chase design. In addition to it there is a good denominational school here. Nineteen teachers are employed to instruct a registered 890 Negro pupils. Eight churches conserve the religious interests of the town, two Baptist, and one each of the following denominations: A. M. E., C. M. E., M. E., Congregational, Catholic, and Church of God. The people of Boley subscribe for 2,100 monthly publication, 1,800 weekly publication and 150 daily publications. This number of publications subscribed for by a community of 2,500 souls indicates that Boley is a reading community that means to keep informed regarding what is current in the great outside world. The town maintains seen physicians, two dentists, six lawyers and fifty-one merchants, the latter having over $400,000 invested in their businesses. The town has a federal form of government, the mayor, and council being elected by popular vote, and the officials are a very intelligent and unselfish set of men.

On arriving at this town, and I ought to dignify it with the title of city because of the highly intelligent manner in which its laws and ordinances are administered, the visitor alights at a railroad station whose station master, ticket agent, express agent, telegraph operator and "baggage smasher" are all men collated by the Census Bureau at Washington as Negroes. One finds here the well conducted hotel is presided over by a Negro boniface; that the telephone exchange is a Negro institution; that the electric light and power plant is wholly in the hands of Negroes.

There is no race discrimination in Boley. Although the city is an exclusively Negro owned and populated town, when a white man puts in appearance at Boley, as is frequently the case, on business errands, he is not subjected to the discrimination and revolting segregation to which Negroes are so frequently subjected in white-governed communities. In this Negro town a white man is accorded that generous hospitality which must impress him with the Negro's sincere desire to return good for evil. The visitor to Boley is made to feel so perfectly at home, the hospitality is so unstinted and genuine, and the spirit of harmony is so manifest, he is possessed of one regret—regret at leaving. In Boley one finds enough of the simple, with just a touch of the strenuous, to make him feel contented in this black Arcadia, and yet conscious that he is in a real, live, wide-awake town.

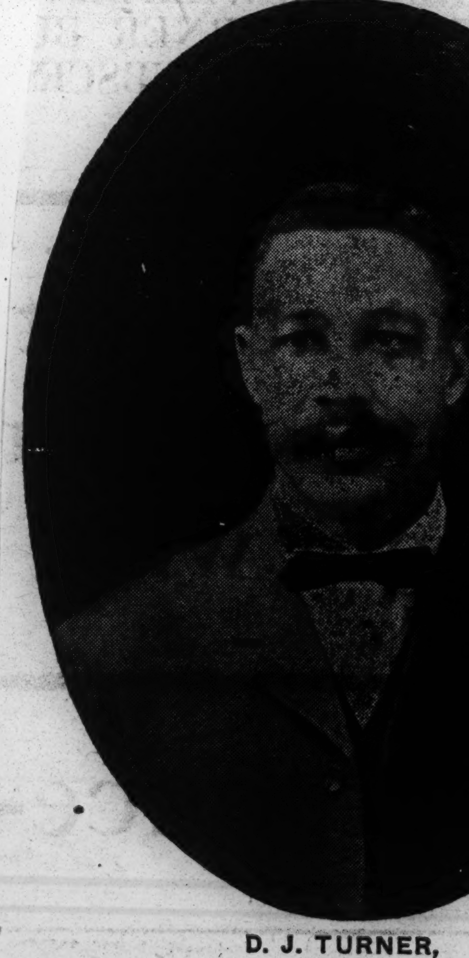
Little has been said or written about this Negro town, this the largest Negro municipality in America. Its citizens are too busy making it an exemplification of race progress and race unity to attune their voices to a song of its or their praise. They are so absorbed with their constructive program, so happy and contented in this well governed community more than twelve hundred miles from America's metropolis on the Hudson, that it has never occurred to these industrious Negroes to advertise to the world, in bold-face type, that Boley is on the map. It has never, perhaps, occurred to these people that the world ought to know of this strikingly convincing evidence of race co-operation and capacity for self-government. In many respects, I count this town of Boley the best evidence of Negro progress to be found on the American continent.

Captivated by the harmony existing here, observing the progress here being made, I could not help recalling Oliver Goldsmith's lines:

"Hope, like the gleaming taper's light,
  Adorns and cheers the way;
And still, as darker grows the night,
  Emits a brighter ray."

There are many things, and frequent discouraging happenings to incline those of us with less sturdy hearts to the belief that, for the race "darker grows the night." But when we turn our eyes to Boley, Okla., to Mound Bayou, Miss., and a dozen other exclusively Negro towns "where peace and smiling plenty reign," in which is the proof of Negro co-operation and capacity for self-gove we are made conscious of the "Hope, like the gleaming adorns and cheers the way."

As Plymouth Rock, where fathers landed, was a wild, viting spot, save for the hope for freedom of thought and action, ley, only a dozen years ago, wa a virgin forest, a trackless plain, a pleless region that offered no welc save to those who desired to establish upon the South's immutable prejudice the fact that "white or black, a man's a man for all of that;" that the Negro can co-operate and harmonize, and that he has the intelligent capacity for self-government. For the Negro race, in its desire to establish proof of its capacity for self-government, Boley is the hope that "adorns and cheers the way." Boley the "Million Dollar Black City," is magnificent in its proof of race progress and capacity for self-government.



D. J. TURNER,
Cashier Farmers' and Merchants' Bank, Boley, Okla.

other side

1914

Towns and Settlements — 1923.

Oklahoma.

OIL DISCOVERED FOUR MILES FROM OKLAHOMA TOWN

Boley, Oklahoma, Negro Town, Is Center of Newest Oil Rush

POPULATION DOUBLED

Black Settlers Expect Wells To Make Them Into Millionaires

Boley, Okla., June 7.—Oil prospectors are rushing into this city and section by the hundreds.

Over night the black metropolis of America has become a seething bee-hive of humanity and if the on-coming hordes continues within a few weeks Boley will have doubled its population. The cause of the excitement develops out of the spouting of the big oil well brought in on a quarter section owned by Rev. Robert Kirksey, located about four miles northwest of this city last Friday night.

The Afro-American
Balto, Md.
6-8-23

Towns and Settlements-1924.

Oklahoma.

53

Greenville, S.C. Piedmont

DEC 19 1924

EXCLUSIVE NEGRO TOWN IN OKLAHOMA

"White Man, Don't Let the Sun Set On You," Banner is Seen

Henryetta, Okla.—The sign reaching across the main street of Boley bearing the ominous legend, "White man, don't let the sun set on you," has been forced down by federal authorities, who threatened to discontinue the postoffice there unless their order was complied with.

Boley is a negro town of possibly twenty-five hundred inhabitants located in Okfuskee County, and probably one of the most clannish of all race settlements in Oklahoma. Few white persons are ever seen on the streets of this exclusive negro town, and those who are occasionally seen are either traveling salesmen or law enforcement officers from the federal department or sheriff's office at Okemah, the county seat. The town is located in a very rich cotton and farm section. It has its business streets of well stocked mercantile establishments, flanked by its residence section. The schools are well ordered and the churches are modern. There is also a municipal water system and electric light service, recreation park and the inevitable movie show. One of the two hotels, operated by a negro, caters to white patronage exclusively, and is especially popular with traveling salesmen visiting the town because of the excellent table fare, fried chicken morning, noon and night leading the bill of fare.

In the recent election Boley became of front page news value because of the ejection of Gene Catlett, white assistant county attorney, and candidate for election from a voting booth by John Owen, negro town marshal, a circumstance that for a time threatened a race war precipitated by enraged white citizens of Okemah, the county seat. Catlett had gone to Boley for the purpose of challenging certain negro voters, whom he believed were not entitled to the franchise, and was ejected from the polls by Owen, who escorted him out of town and told him not to return. Catlett returned to Okemah and issued a warrant for the arrest of Owen. Accompanied by two deputies, Sheriff R. H. McKinnon went to Boley to serve the warrant. They were met by about four hundred negroes, fully armed, who disarmed the sheriff and his deputies and, leading them to the corporate limits, told them to return to Owemah. Adjutant Gen. Baird H. Markham with his staff came from Oklahoma City and placed Owen under arrest, at the same time assuring the negroes of the town that there would be no invasion by a mob of white men from Okemah as had been threatened.

Boley Doesn't Want the Sun To Set on 'Em

HENRIETTA, Okla., Dec. 27.—Across the main street of Boley, an exclusively colored settlement in this state, appeared the warning: "White man, don't let the sun set on you." The sign was ordered removed by federal authorities who threatened to discontinue the postoffice of Boley unless the order was obeyed.

Chicago Defender

In ordering the offensive sign removed from the street, the federal officers pointed out that it might be necessary for white officials in the postal service to visit Boley, and it might also be necessary for them to remain over night in the line of duty. It was also explained to the citizens that such signs were unwarranted and a menace that could tend only to keep alive the racial antagonism and would but result in injury to their community.

12-27-24

[illegible]ns and Settlements - 1925.

Oklahoma. + VIRGINIA

[illegible] Town [illegible] [illegible]gregating Whites

One White Man Stayed [illegible]e Weeks in Boley, and Gained 13 Pounds.

[illegible] A[illegible] for [illegible] Advancement of Colored People, [illegible] Fifth avenue, has received and made public today a letter [illegible] colored citizens of Boley, Oklahoma, a Negro town, denying reports [illegible] published in a [illegible] white paper [illegible] effect [illegible] colored people had warned white men to stay out of the town after dark.

The news item from which the colored [illegible] object [illegible] stated that there was a sign [illegible] main street of Boley [illegible] Let the Sun Set on [illegible] the colored people claim this report was sent out to prejudice [illegible] case they have taken to [illegible] involving denial of their registration rights. The colored people [illegible] a [illegible] is displayed in the neighboring white [illegible] Henryetta.

[illegible] from the colored citizens of Boley is as follows:

[illegible] not segregate any white [illegible] any other nationality. We [illegible] them to come to our [illegible] would not advise a [illegible] to let the sun go [illegible] on him in Henryetta.

[illegible] really think the publisher [illegible] mistake, intending to advise the colored man not to let the [illegible] down on him in Henryetta, [illegible] said what he did about [illegible]

[illegible] 15 to 25 white men and [illegible] visit Boley daily and sleep [illegible] hotels, eat at our tables [illegible] from our grocery stores [illegible] are treated like any other human should be treated. We had one white man to board in our [illegible] three weeks and he gained 13 [illegible]ds, went away and stayed two weeks and lost five pounds, and [illegible] do not believe that any white man would tell you such a thing if false."

BOLEY, OKLAHOMA, NEGRO TOWN, DENIES SEGREGATING WHITES.

One White Man Stayed Three Weeks and Gained 13 Pounds.

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5-2-25

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See original clipping
under
Taufton, Va
10/21/1925

Towns and Settlements - 1925. Oklahoma. + Virginia

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Towns and Settlements—1925.

Oklahoma. + VIRGINIA

63

Boley

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[illegible] News
5-13-25
New York N.Y.

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National Baptist Voice
5-22-25
Nashville Tenn.

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Louisville News
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Chicago Whip
5-16-25
Chicago Illinois

COLORED TOWN IS ONE OF THE FINEST IN U. S.

$1,000,000 Government Built Town Of Truxton, Va., Sold To Race Financiers Is A New Step Forward

CITY PLANNING SUBURB

Has 253 Modern Dwellings; Electric And Steam Railway Service; Public Edifices.

PORTSMOUTH, Va., Sep. 30—No longer are Boley, Okla., and Brooklyn, Ill., the leading cities of the country practically owned and run solely by Negroes. Through the closure of a deal with the government colored citizens bought the "war time" city of Truxton, Va., at a price close to $150,000. It is the new 'Athens' of the colored American.

St. Louis Argus

The City of Truxton lies in the suburbs of Portsmouth, Va. It was built for colored workers during the World War at a cost of $1,000,000. Finding little use for it since 1919, the government decided to auction the town off through sealed bids. A group of colored financiers turned out to be the highest bidders, and the town went to them.

10-2-25

St. Louis, Mo.

The town of Truxton is modern in every respect and will rank with some of the best towns in the country of its size. It lies within one mile of the U. S. Navy Yard in Portsmouth. It is served by both electric and steam railways.

The picturesque little town has 253 modern dwellings of a modest yet imposing architecture. The houses are of a similar plan, each having five rooms, bath, hot water, a furnace, and an electric light sytem. Each home is provided with a spacious front and back yard. The town has an ideal street and sewer system, the streets being wide gravel surfaced thoroughfares having a narrow parkway containing flowers and shrubbery running through their centers.

The town's school is a modern ten room, brick building. It is equipped to meet all community needs, having a spacious auditorium for concerts, picture shows and dances. The school rooms are of the most modern type.

Of the 253 houses 143 have been sold and are now occupied. All o the 105 unsold houses will be immediately placed on the market on the basis of the generous reductions. The payment on these houses will not exceed the percent a month.

It has been arranged to spend $10,000 to have most of the buildings in the town newly painted.

The colored citizens have already proceeded to form their own government, organize their own police and fire department, and set up their own businesses. The town in every respect speaks the spirit of the new Negroes of independence, faith and progressiveness.

BOLEY HAS ITS OWN BANKS, FACTORIES

The little town of Boley, Okla., just 23 years old, has a population of 5,000, all members of the Race. Samuel M. Mathocian, re-elected for fifth year, is mayor of Boley, which boasts one of the first Race banks ever to receive a charter—the First National Bank of Boley. Another financial house does business in the town under the name of the Farmers' and Merchants' bank.

Chicago Defender

Boley has a well organized public school system, with 600 registered students. In the high school last years 125 students were enrolled. A. C. M. E. college has been established in the town.

12-11-27

A broom factory, an electric plant, a soda factory, an ice plant and several miscellaneous industries make up the business enterprises of the town and cover a square mile. Among the successful business men have been William M. Hazel, owner of a meat market, S. W. Williams, a grocer, [illegible] L. Dolphin, a dry goods merchant, C. W. Charles, a shoe dealer; C. W. Kelly, another owner of a shoe store; C. L. White, proprietor of a hardware store, and C. H. Roberts, baker.

Chicago Ill

Boley, located 80 miles from Oklahoma City, on the Fort Smith and Oklahoma railroad and on the State Ozark trail, was founded by Tom Hayes, a Texas farmer, who took up an abandoned Indian dugout and later built for his family the first house in Boley.

The city government includes a board of aldermen, city clerk and city marshall. There is bus service to the town and taxi service within it. Three hotels and nine churches are in the town. Boley owns the land for 15 miles around the settled area. Around several of the farms oil has been struck.

ns and Settlements-1926

Oklahoma

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BOLEY, OKLA. PROGRESSES DURING 1925

Has Strong Municipal Government And School System, Banks And Many Business Enterprises.

—*—

BOLEY, Okla., Dec. 30.—A remarkable progress for the year of 1925 has been reported by the colored town of Boley, Oklahoma, which was organized in 1902.

St. Louis Argus

Boley boasts of having one of the first race banks to ever receive a charter—The First National Bank of Boley. The town has a second financial institution known as the Farmers' and Merchants' Bank.

1-1-26

A well organized school system is another pride of the colored town. Six hundred registered students are said to be enrolled in its schools, 125 of whom are in high school. A Colored Methodist Episcopal college is the latest school addition in the town.

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Boley has a splendid municipal government. It includes a mayor, a board of aldermen, a city clerk and a city marshall. Mr. Samuel M. Mathocian has been elected mayor for the fifth successive time.

The race town is located 80 miles from Oklahoma City on the Fort Smith and Oklahoma Railroad. It is situated on the State Ozark Trail. The town is said to have been founded by Tom Hayes, a Texas farmer who took up an abandoned Indian dugout as his first residence. later he built the first house in Boley.

The town owns land for fifteen miles around. Oil has been struck on sveral farms in its vicinity. It has both bus and taxi service.

Towns and Settlements - 1932

Oklahoma

Oklahoma City, Okla.
OKLAHOMAN

APR 24 1932

High Taxes Cause Worry In Boley, All Negro Community

Levy of $98 a $1,000 Needed To Clear City, School District Debts.

By ALVIN RUCKER
(Oklahoman-Times Staff Correspondent)

The Boley area, largest Negro-governed area in the United States, has remained intact 30 years.

In Chicago and New York, Negro sections contain more Negroes than does the Boley area, but these sections are parts of white-men-governed cities. In the Boley area, city and rural, all offficers of school districts, townships and the city of Boley are Negroes. In the city of Boley, and in three of the six Negro school districts, no white person lives. Roughly, the Boley area is ten miles north and south, and in its widest place, ten miles east and west.

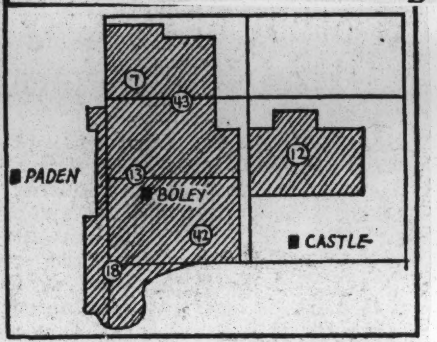
Here is the scholastic population of the Boley area:

	Negroes	Whites
District No. 13, Boley	498	None
District No. 18	159	None
District No. 43	100	None
District No. 7	181	7
District No. 12	177	8
District No. 42	158	6
Total	1,273	21

Negro school directors direct scholastic affairs, Negro trustees direct township affairs, Negro justices of the peace ajudicate lawsuits and punish for offenses in township jurisdictions, and in Boley, a municipal judge presides.

In the town of Boley there are two lawyers, four medical doctors, one dentist, the Boley ward and high-schools are conducted by 14 Negro teachers, the telegraph operator and railroad depot agent is a Negro, the postmaster and banker and his two assistants are Negroes, and all business and labor of every kind is carried on by Negroes. No whites are employed in any capacity in the entire area.

About 15 years ago, newspapers throughout the nation printed a story about a sign in Boley emblazoned, "White man, don't let the sun go down on you in Boley." There was such a sign for a short time, but it was erected by irresponsible persons, and was destroyed by Boley authorities as soon as it came to their attention. Whites are not permitted to live in Boley and white loafers are not tolerated on the streets, but any white person with legitimate business is welcome day or night, and the Berry hotel affords sleeping and dining room accommodations for white travelers. No white person in Boley on legitimate business has ever been molested, even by annoying looks.



Shaded area indicates Negro populated portion of Okfuskee county. Numbers indicate school districts.

Boley had a population of about 2,900 during is greatest prosperity, and it was during that period the brick store buildings, the $50,000 Masonic temple and one large church building were erected. Negroes undertook to make Boley their educational, religious and cultural center of the southwest. A sectarian college was created and it continued for more than ten years, closing about a year ago.

Sinking Fund Lags

Municipal and school district financial affairs in Boley are conducted as similar affairs are elsewhere and Boley, like all other municipalities, is beginning to worry. The city has five bond issues totaling $97,000, distributed as follows:

Water, issued April 15, 1911, due April 15, 1936	$33,000
Water extension, issued Dec. 21, 1921, due April 1, 1946..........	30,000
Electric light, issued April 1, 1921, due Dec. 1, 1946..........	25,000
Fire department, issued Dec. 1, 1921, due Dec. 1, 1946..........	3,000
Funding bonds, issued June 12, 1917, due June 12, 1947......	6,000
Total	$97,000

On June 30, 1931, the city should have had $53,897 in sinking funds to help retire the debt, but actually had only $5,634.60 cash, plus $2,831.78 of the city's own warrants of a precarious nature.

Resale No Solution

Boley, like many other municipalities, in arriving at the allocations for each year, divides the total bond issue by the number of years the bonds run, instead of by the number of levies that can be made in the time. Boley's only hope is to induce the bondholders to accept funding bonds spread thin enough through years to permit serial payment.

Boley, as a principal part of school district No. 13, is charged with raising annually its part of the annual share or allocation of $64,492.41, bond, judgment and warrant debts, ranging in maturity from April 15, 1935, to June 30, 1946, including a $20,942.56 judgment due June 30, 1934. The school district debt, June 30, 1931, was $64,592, on a district valuation of $390,771, nearly one-sixth of its assessed valuation.

Resale of property in Boley and the Boley area, as bond and other problems arise, does not necessarily offer a solution, as the buying of such property would be limited nearly to Negroes.

Total tax levies amount to $98.52 on each $1,000 valuation fixed by the assessor.

Boley

Towns and Settlements-1933

Oklahoma

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Raise Original Boley Loan To Million Dollars

Black Dispatch
12-16-33
Oklahoma City, Okla.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14. Three history-making conferences were held in the Department of Interior this week when a group of public spirited Boleyites and Editor Roscoe Dunjee, Oklahoma's chairman of the Emergency Advisory Council, acted as spokesman, petitioned Mr. Clark Foreman, advisor of the Economic Status of Negroes, for a huge loan for the City of Boley, totaling one million dollars for public works. A third parley was later held with the U. S. Civil Works Board, from which department the final decision will be made.

Joining the progressive and militant Boley EAC delegation that included City Manager M. C. Simmons, Mayor C. P. Young, City Treasurer William Hazel, Principal Lathan A. Hill and Editor Roscoe Dunjee, was Senator Elmer Thomas, Oklahoma, who pledged himself to lend the utmost support and every possible effort in his power toward gaining the loan of $1,000,000 for the Negro metropolis.

The Oklahoma intercessors left Washington Wednesday for Knoxville, Tenn., where Editor Webster Porter of the East Tennessee News has scheduled a magnificent mass meeting and welcoming program for the group. Here they will be joined by Hon. M. S. Stuart, insurance executive, and the Memphis EAC group. The Boleyites will return to Oklahoma Sunday.

Oklahoma

Towns and Settlements - 1934

OVERLAND TO WASHINGTON

Black Dispatch

Boley officials, including His Honor, Mayor C. P. Young, William Hazel, city treasurer; City Manager M. C. Simmons and Superintendent of Schools, Prof. Letchen A. Hill, journeyed to Washington some weeks ago to hold a conference with federal officials. Editor Roscoe Dunjee accompanied them. 1-25-34

This week Editor Dunjee narrates what happened on this trip, leaving Clarksburg, W. Va., and thru the Alleghanies into Washington, D. C.

Boley, Okla., 30 Years Old In September

Call

BOLEY, Okla.—(ANP)—"On to Boley for the thirtieth anniversary jubilee and homecoming celebration" will soon be on the lips of every Negro in the state of Oklahoma and the Southwest, if the present plans of the 1,000 or more Negro citizens of the first all Negro town in the United States, are realized. 7-13-34

At a meeting last week of the Chamber of Commerce, held at the Masonic Temple, Dr. H. M. Sanders presiding, it was voted and approved by members of the city council to hold the gala celebration September 18 to 23 inclusive.

Kansas City

The object of the celebration is to commemorate the founding of Boley on Semptember 22, 1904. Further, the city council hopes to create a renewed energy and civic pride among its citizens and to promote a more friendly relationship with members of their race everywhere.

The committee of 100 citizens of Boley has pledged to make the event the greatest affair ever conducted in the state of Oklahoma, and committees will enlist forces from every county in the state with the hope of bringing not less than 10,000 former residents and visitors to the town for the conclave.

The program being arranged for the occasion will include a community pageant depicting the birth and rise of Boley ,a gospel choir and chorus of 100 voices; old timer's reunion county fair, Thanksgiving service—agricultural and industrial exhibits, carnival, athletic events—baseball, field sports, band concerts, addresses by noted speakers and other interesting features.

The citizens committee of 100 is headed by C. P. Young mayor; James McGriff, chairman; M. C. Simmons, city manager; J. L. Robinson, W. M. Hazel, H. O. Mariott, O. H. Bradley, M. H. Martin, B. Oliver, E. C. Cozine, Dr. H. M. Sanders, C. L. White.

Rev

A Salute To Boley

Black Dispatch 9-22-34

Oklahoma City

The city of Boley makes its bow this week to the state and the nation on its thirtieth anniversary. Governors and near governors will speak and the crowds will make merry in the side shows and on the city's streets. This will be a great week, in a great city, where Negroes have learned many lessons and had rich experiences.

In the general program of economics and as a trading center it cannot be said that Boley has done all that is possible, and all that perhaps could have been done, but in many ways Boley has furnished the opportunity for much inspiration to all of us, and forces the admiration of men of other races when it comes to orderly government and right living.

In these days of lawlessness Boley offers high ideals in respect for law. Nowhere in Oklahoma is a man or his property more safe than in that black municipality. Ninety-five per cent of the time Boley's jail doors stand unlocked for want of criminals, and the world know there is law enforcement in Boley, since the day when her vigilantes shot to death the worst criminals this state has produced. Law violators shun Boley, and in this respect Boley commands the admiration of the nation.

This nation may build fine cities, finer than Boley; fly across the seas in airships and gird the nation with her radios, but after all, the test of culture or of a civilization rests in right living, and in this Boley offers moral leadership for the nation.

Rich has been the experience for Negroes in knowing that Dave Turner lived. Dave Turner in death stands out as a bright shining light to Negro youth, not only in Oklahoma, but of America. It was the little city of Boley that gave D. J. Turner the opportunity to prove to America that Negroes could operate a banking institution with ability, integrity and honor. Somewhere beyond the golden strand Boley's banker is standing today on this thirtieth anniversary demanding that Boley re-open the bank which he left untarnished and solvent. It is Boley's challenge on this thirtieth anniversary.

Wonderful schools, churches and home life point to the ideals of the community, and the magnificent Masonic Temple, erected by the Masons of the state, attest to the outside cooperation which has been given to the building of a community where the zephyrs of freedom blow and where self-determination among black folk is an actuality. In this atmosphere black men have for years held orderly municipal elections, and no official in Boley's civic life has ever been charged with crime, or in any way violating his oath of office.

Boley needs new life and new vision. She needs strength and underpinning to her economic structure. Her forebears laid the foundation upon which the youth of the race should build. With a rich surrounding agricultural territory there is no reason why manufacturing establishments should not be established of various sorts, and greated advantage taken of opportunities abounding everywhere. A bakery, laundry, shoe repair, bottling works and many other business institutions would do well there. The road from here on should lead to a larger development of the idea of a trading center.

Measured by many yardsticks of civilization, Boley's beacon light stands out. She has told the world that black men stand for clean government, for religion, for education, for law and order. May the wings of destiny sweep her on to higher ground, and towards all of the objectives of which the forefathers dreamed.

Rev

Oklahoma City, Okla.
OKLAHOMAN

SEP 25 1934

A Bow to Boley

A LOW bow to Boley, population 1,000, which celebrated its thirtieth birthday anniversary last week with great show and ceremony.

Boley is the largest all-Negro town in Oklahoma, and one of the most unique communities in the United States. No white families reside there. Boley is the most interesting community in Okfuskee county, because it has demonstrated beyond cavil that Negroes can live in prosperity and amity in the heart of a white man's country and be entirely self-sufficient. There are doctors, lawyers, dentists and realtors in Boley, but they are all brothers of the skin. They are probably as few families in and around Boley on the relief rolls as there are in any white community of same size in the state of Oklahoma. There is so little disorder in Boley that the city jail stands empty and useless. There has been no robbery in the town since November, 1932, when a bunch of white outlaws paid the town a visit. We commend to Negroes everywhere, no less than to whites, the law and order, the thrift and industry, the modest pride and persistent progress of the men and women of Boley.

BOLEY HOLDS ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Call

All-Negro Oklahoma Town 30 Years Old; 5,000 Persons Attend

10-5-34

By F. G. Snelson

Kansas City

BOLEY, Okla.—(ANP)—Quaint Boley, with its staid all-Negro population, held one of the most interesting celebrations in its history here last week in honor of the thirtieth year of its existence. Five thousand people from the thickly populated nearby territory and from various points in Oklahoma, gathered to pay tribute to the founding of the famous municipality.

The local fair grounds where the celebration was held was the scene of the opening event. A demonstration of farm extension work was made under the direction of C. E. Johnson and Lulu B. McCain, agents. An elaborate display of livestock, poultry, crops, foods and home improvement devices were shown. Ribbons were awarded by the judges, J. E. Taylor and Julia A. Miller, agents.

Parade Is Mile Long

On Saturday a colorful parade was held, a mile in length, with wagons drawn by mule teams, predominating and filled with tillers of the soil among whom were many veteran pioneers of this rich cotton belt of which Boley is the center.

"Miss Boley", selected from a large group of young women, daughters of the town fathers, presided as queen of the occasion. This honor was won by Miss Erma Price, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William S. Price. Her father owns the largest cotton gin in Boley and she serves him as a capable assistant.

A 60-foot barbecue pit was filled with hundreds of pounds of roasting meat requiring 20 attendants together with wagons laden with cookery and delicacies from the farm added to the festal occasion.

Mound Bayou Sends Delegation

Mound Bayou, Miss., the second largest all-Negro city in the country, sent a delegation to extend congratulations to her sister community. R. W. Jones, mayor protem; C. V. Thurmond, postmaster and secretary of the Mound Bayou foundation; J. F. Huddleston, merchant and member of the Boley chamber of commerce; Isaac Peterson, editor and B. A. Wade, manager of the Southern Advocate, bore the greetings of Mayor Benjamin A. Green of Boley.

Responding, Mayor C. P. Young of Boley expressed the community's appreciation and promised that the citizens of Boley would return the trip in the near future, so that friendship and mutual interest might be developed between the two communities.

The officers of the anniversary celebration committee included: James McGriff, president; W. M. Hazel, president of chamber of commerce; Letchen A. Hill, chairman program committee; William S. Price, chairman executive committee; S. J. King, treasurer; H. O. Marriott, secretary chamber of commerce; H. C. McCormick; Floyd G. Snelson, director of publicity.

Founded In 1903

Boley is located about the center of the state of Oklahoma, 62 miles west of the capitol, Oklahoma City, on the Ft. Smith and Western, a townsite of 360 acres with a population of 1,000 and a nearby country population of more than 15,000.

It was founded in 1903, the idea emanating from Lake Moore, president of the railroad, for the benefit of the thick settlement of Negroes in that section. William Boley, white, road master of the Ft. Smith and Western, carried out the orders of the executive, and thus the town was developed under his supervision, and named in his honor.

The land was originally allotted to Creek Freedmen, given them by the U. S. department of interior, Indian bureau of the then Indian territory. The Johnsons, Barnetts, Walkers, Graysons, composed the group. The town proper was the property of Miss Abigall Barnett, now the wife of H. C. McCormick, who was present at the celebration.

The people of Boley are thrifty and at one time (prior to the depression) possessed much wealth, and their output of cotton brought them handsome sums annually. During better times they boasted a brick yard, lumber yard, saw mill, ice and electric plant, newspaper, banks, cotton gins, many schools, churches, a college and other institutions.

A Modern City

Boley has a telephone exchange, railway express, railroad station. Western Union telegraph, $70,000 Masonic temple, Farmers' and Merchants' bank (soon to open); stores, garages, etc.

They have an accredited high school with 21 units, a faculty of 14 and adequate facilities with which to do high school work. Fifty per cent of the pupils come from adjoining communities in cars, busses and other conveyances. The state of Oklahoma maintains a training school for Negro boys, with a hundred inmates and a staff of 30 attendants. It has a postoffice.

Boley, one of the largest towns owned and controlled by Negroes, maintains its own government with its own election.

They are as follows: C. P. Young, mayor; M. C. Simmons, city manager; M. H. Martin, city attorney; H. C. Glaze, water superintendent; J. L. McCormick, city marshall; J. T. Abram, justice of the peace; B. Oliver, councilman; William H. Hazel, city treasurer; Dr. H. M. S. Sanders, council; Dr. W. A. Paxton, health; O. H. Bradley, city clerk.

START NEW MOVEMENT TO STIMULATE INTEREST OF NEGRO YOUTH IN CIVIC AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

Black Dispatch

11-22-34

ONE HUNDRED STATE LEADERS IN VARIOUS FIELDS ATTEND ORGANIZATION MEET AT BOLEY

Education Campaign To Be Instigated

BOLEY, Okla., Nov. 15.—Despite an all-day downpour of rain and heavy, threatening clouds which obscured the heavens, more than one hundred business men, farmers and citizens of the state gathered in the Masonic Temple here today and organized what will hereafter be known as the "Oklahoma Council of Business Administration."

The call for the meeting was issued by J. E. Johnson, Muskogee, secretary of the Security Life Insurance company, who in his call, said that the objects of the new organization would be "the improvement of the industrial and financial status of the Negroes of Oklahoma; the stressing of the importance of race loyalty; helping in the problems of home ownership; stimulating greater parental interest in the future welfare of Negro youth; helping to inspire Negro youth with higher ideals; developing better interracial relations; cultivating more interest in civic affairs; placing the Negro's interest first and of more importance than partisanship or social relations, and conducting a continuous constructive campaign of education for the purpose of selling the ideas in these purpose to our group together with any other objective which may become a part of the program of this council."

At 11:30 a. m. the meeting was called to order by City Manager M. C. Simmons. Devotional services were conducted by the Rev. Chas. H. Davis of Haskell, and Rev. F. Divers of Muskogee.

Towns and Settlements-1934.

Oklahoma.

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Black Dispatch

9-27-34

Oklahoma City, Okla.

MARLAND, MURRAY AND PINE SPEAK AT BOLEY'S ANNIVERSARY

LARGEST INCORPORATED NEGRO TOWN IN AMERICA DRESSED IN FESTIVE ATTIRE FOR UNIQUE OCCASION

Bands From D. B. & O., Langston and State Training School To Furnish Music

BOLEY, Okla., Sept. 19.—With flags flying and the band from the State Training School playing, Boley opened its 30th anniversary celebration today. State, county and city officials will join in the five days set apart to commemorate the organization and more than a quarter century's existence of the largest incorporated Negro town in America.

Murray and Marland Talk

According to the scheduled program, Governor William H. Murray will address the citizens at 3 p. m. Thursday, and Congressman E. W. Marland, democratic candidate for governor, will talk Saturday at 2 p. m.

Pine Coming To Celebration

W. B. Pine, republican candidate for governor, will address the assembled throngs Friday at 2 p. m., with R. Emmett Stewart, Muskogee, and campaign manager for the former senator responding to the republican candidate's remarks.

Other distinguished speakers who will appear on the program are: Hon. T. M. Campbell, southern field agent, extension service, Tuskegee institute; Hon. John Vaughan, state superintendent of public instruction; Dr. J. H. Clayborn, Little Rock, Ark.; Congressman Will Rogers.

The celebration, sponsored by the chamber of commerce, is scheduled to start Wednesday. It will end on Sunday with a thanksgiving service.

History

The property that the town of Boley was built upon belonged to the present Mrs. H. C. McCormick. Many additions have been made to the original town so that it comprises about 300 acres now.

Early in 1904 the town of Boley was plotted by the townsite company. T. M. Haynes was chosen as townsite manager. A formal opening was held on Sept. 22, 1904. A petition was signed by 200 residents of the town and filed in the federal court at Sapulpa for the incorporation of the town. The petition was granted by the court, sitting at Wewoka, May 10, 1905. The program for the celebration follows:

September 19, 2:30 p. m.

Community singing—Home Demonstration and Agriculture Clubs.

Remarks—County President Agriculture and Home Demonstration Committee.

National 4-H songs and ritual—4-H club girls and boys.

Address—T. M. Campbell, Southern Field Agent, Extension Service, Tuskegee institute.

Exhibits on display: Livestock, poultry, crops, foods, clothing and home improvement. Judges: District Agents J. E. Taylor, Julia A. Miller.

September 20

Music—State Training School Band.

3 p. m.—Address by Gov. Wm. Murray. William Hazel, master of ceremony.

September 21

S. J. King, master of ceremony.

Music by High School Quartet.

3 p. m.—Address, A. H. Jones. Music, High School quartet. Address, Hon. W. B. Pine. Response, Emmett Stewart.

8 p. m.—O. A. N. T. Program.

Word of Welcome, Supt. Hill, Boley. Music, Douglass orchestra, Oklahoma City. Response, Mrs. T. O. Grissom, president State P.-T. A., Harlinsville. Toast to Boley, J. Oscar Spencer, Nowata. Music, D. B. & O. Band, Taft. Address, John Vaughan, state superintendent public instruction. Music, C. A. & N. U., Langston. Benediction.

September 22

1 p. m.—Grand parade.

2 p. m.—J. W. Sanford, master of ceremony. Music, S. T. S. Band. Introduction of Congressman Will Rogers by J. W. Sanford. Introduction of E. W. Marland, Frank Douglass. Address, E. W. Marland.

September 23

United thanksgiving service in the high school auditorium. Rev. W. H. Hall, master of ceremonies.

9:30 a. m.—Sunday school.

11:30 — Thanksgiving sermon, Dr. J. H. Clayborn, Little Rock.

3 p. m.—Address, Dr. E. W. Perry, Oklahoma City. Music by United Chorus, Prof. F. W. Sullivan, director; Mrs. F. B. Jones, organist; Mrs. L. A. Hill, assistant.

8 p. m.—Address, Dr. W. T. Johnson, Tullahassee.

Visiting Choirs: Childsville,

Boley

Petition in Bankruptcy Filed By Town of Boley in Federal Court, Eastern Dist. Okla.

Action Taken to Liquidate Obligations Which Stifle Program for Improvement

Bright Future to Follow Court Action

Black Dispatch
2-25-39

MUSKOGEE, Okla.—Petition in bankruptcy for the town of Boley was filed in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Oklahoma, February 9, by J. Berry King, George J. Fagin. attorneys.

Efforts will be made in this court action to liquidate the obligations of the little city and again throw it open to development. As the matter stands now the taxes on the bonded indebtedness of the municipality makes building, operations and public improvements impossible.

The town has recently taken on new life since the opening of the bank by Forest Anderson, but the entire community is stifled because of the prohibitive rate of taxation.

The full text of the bankruptcy petition follows:

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT OF THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA

In the matter of the Town of Boley, Oklahoma, Debtor, No. 7577, in Bankruptcy.

Notice is hereby given that this court has issued its order dated February 2, 1939, that the petition filed by the Town of Boley, Oklahoma, in this court was approved as properly filed under the Act of Congress approved August 16, 1937, known as Public—302, 75th Congress, Chapter 657, 1st Session, H. R. 5969, pertaining to Municipl Debt Plans of Composition. Said petition sets out a plan of composition as agreed upon by and between the Town of Boley, Oklahoma, and Forrest Anderson, Earlsboro, Oklahoma, the Creditors Committee.

The order provided that all creditors of the Town of Boley, Oklahoma, are commanded to file their sworn claims in this cause with the Clerk of the Court at Muskogee, Oklahoma, on or before the 1st day of April, 1939, at 10:00 o'clock a. m., and said proofs of claim shall each set forth the name and address of the creditor, shall identify the bonds an interest coupons of said Town of Boley, Oklahoma held by the creditor, by number, denomination and maturity date, or if judgments then the name of the judgment, the date rendered, the original amount therof and the amount unpaid.

The order further provided that all creditors of the Town of Boley, Oklahoma, and all interested parties are commanded to appear before this Court at Muskogee, Oklahoma, on the 14th day of April, 1939, at 10:00 o'clock a. m., and at any adjournment or adjournments of said hearing the Court will hear, pass upon and determine whether the facts alleged in the petition are true and whether said plan of composition is fair, equitable and for the interests of the creditors of said Town of Boley, Oklahoma and whether it discriminates unfairly in favor of or aganist any creditor or class of creditors, and whether said plan of composition and any changes therein, or modifications thereof which may be proposed, should be approved and confirmed.

ALFRED P. MURRAH,
Judge, United States District Court for the Eastern District of Oklahoma.

Boley Pays $97,000 Debt; To Celebrate

Defender
7-29-39

BOLEY, Okla., July 2[illegible].—Thousands of visitors from all over the state are expected to join in the mammoth parade here August 4 in the celebration of paying off the bonded indebtedness of $97,000.

Following the parade which will be led by three bands, the mayor and city officials will address the group and explain how the indebtedness was paid off.

The affair will be climaxed with a grand carnival and a pageant depicting the progress of the city.

BOLEY WILL CELEBRATE

Courier

Parade to Mark Relief from Bonded Indebtedness of $97,000.

7-29-39

BOLEY, Okla., July 27.—(By J. C. King for ANP)—Friday, August 4, friends and citizens of Boley will meet and parade the business section of the world's largest Negro city and follow three Negro bands to the Boley city park.

Pittsburgh Pa.

Following the parade, the mayor and present city officials will explain in detail how the program pertaining to relief of the debt of $97,000 was accomplished.

The real fact of released bonded indebtedness will be considered more of a thanksgiving celebration to those whom it has burdened for many years, also to those who wish to buy property and become a full-fledged Boleyite.

A number of shows and concessions are to be given with a great carnival. Free lunches and cold drinks have been planned to make the pageant more enjoyable for the wonderful thanksgiving program.

7-29-39

BOLEY, NEGRO TOWN WILL CELEBRATE ITS FREEDOM FROM DEBT

7-29-39

BOLEY, Okla. July 27 (By J. C. King for ANP)—Friday, August 4, friends and citizens of Bolley, will meet and parade the business section of the world's largest Negro city and follow three Negro bands to the Boley city park.

Following the parade, the mayor and present city officials will explain in detail how the program pertaining to relief of the debt of $97,000 was accomplished.

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89-1945

[redacted] Oklahoma

201

Writer says all-Negro town needs an industry

Los Angeles Tribune

Los Angeles, Calif.

KANSAS CITY, Kans.—A mixed judgment on the all-Negro town of Boley, Oklahoma, was given here recently in a series of feature articles, written by a former resident of the town after a visit there.

Boley

The writer was Robert C. D. Tieuel Jr., who was brought up in Boley. Returning recently he found industry still the greatest need of the town, preferably a cannery to provide an outlet for its principal occupation, agriculture.

8-27-45

On the debit side of the ledger, Boley's street lighting system is bad, Tieuel wrote. At one time the town owned its own power plant, but electricity is brought in now by a white company.

89

Boley still had what Tieuel called a fine waterworks system, but no sewer system, only private sewers, owned by a few of the town "big shots". Some thoroughfares are well kept, graded and gravelled but there is no paving, and many streets are "not even in a fair condition", Tieuel said. The tax system in Boley is the excise tax and the ad valorem, with a small street and alley stipend attached.

Okla

A necktie factory, formerly located there, has gone out of business, and the town's heavy soda pop business is in the hands of white bottle works in nearby towns. Boley's only bakery burned down not so long ago and the former owner is now living in California. 8-27-45

On the credit side of the ledger, there are many beautiful homes in the all-Negro town, said Tieuel, and several prosperous retail establishments. The farms of the area are flourishing. The populace is healthy, and is kept so by a city hospital that does a capable job of caring for the sick.

In conclusion, Tieuel commented that the streets, although unpaved, are cleaner than those of Kansas City's Negro section.

54 1947

Oklahoma

211

42d Birthday

Pittsburgh Courier

All-Negro Town Has Anniversary

Pittsburgh, Pa.

(54) Sat. 8-2-47

BOLEY, Okla.—The forty-second year of existence for this all-Negro town is being marked this week in a colorful celebration with Governor Roy J. Turner, Joe Louis and a host of lesser lights attending. The celebration is being sponsored by the Boley Chamber of Commerce. Sat. 8-2-47

Organized in 1904, this town was incorporated in 1905, and has enjoyed a successful existence since that time. It is the center of a community with fourteen school districts. It has its own bank, stores and peace officers. A Negro judge presides over the local court. Surrounding Boley are thousands of acres of diversified lands, including oil land, all helping to make it a prosperous community.

Mayor Green of Boley is presiding over the celebration being sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce of which N. S. Myers is president.

Boley, Okla.

Rusk County Second Best in Oklahoma

Community Wins Award, Cited For Its Progress Made in '52

BOLEY, Okla. — More than three hundred citizens of Okfuskee County assembled in the Rusk County school house, last week, to accept the $125 award and certificate of achievement for progress during the past year.

50

Church

The award was presented by Ernest Shiner, associate editor of the Farmer-Stockman, and accepted by Mrs. Artry Morgan, secretary of Rusk's home demonstration club.

P1

Rusk was judged second best among thirteen counties in community progress.

Pittsburgh Cour

IN PRESENTING the award, Shiner congratulated the community on its progress, pointing out that such achievements came from the grass roots, from within the community itself, rather than by direction from some other source.

Mrs. Morgan said the award will serve as a symbol to use for better homes and gardens, better farms, and "we will have a better neighborhood."

Hazel O. King, in presenting the plaque, encouraged the neighborhood to continue the "fine spirit of cooperative work" toward building the kind of community in which they would like to live.

Sat 5-9-53

VISITORS FROM all over the county witnessed the event. Other educational leaders present were Mrs. Velma D. Ashley, superintendent of Boley High School; Wayne C. Chandler, superintendent, State Training School for Boys; J. H. Thompson, principal, IXL School; Ky[illegible] Spencer, principal, Weleetaka School; Mrs. Thelma Sanders, member, Board of Education, Boley High School, and Mrs. Rosie Swain, county school supervisor.

Also listed as a guest was Mrs. Anna Peters Hunter, first Negro demonstration agent in the United States, who began work in 1912.

Other speakers included Cecil Bauman, specialist with the extension division of Stillwater; Mrs. Sarah Young, chairman of Rusk Neighborhood group, who told the group of their many projects and improvements; Paul Brooks, district agent; Leona Abshier, county superintendent; Cecil Dowell, county agent; Rosie H. Swain, county school supervisor; M. L. Coleman, county agent; Lula B. McCain, home demonstration agent, and others.

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Black Dispatch
Oklahoma City, Okla.
5-31-57

New Boley Post Office Is Dedicated

BOLEY — Bringing personal greetings from President Eisenhower, whom the speaker referred to as the best friend postmastess ever had, A. P. (Jack) Kleinegger, district operations manager, Oklahoma City delivered a very pleasing and instructive address at the dedication of the post office at Boley, Saturday, May 25 at 2:30 p.m.

The program opened with a number by the Boley highschool band, under the direction of Mr. I. W. Lawson, which was followed by remarks by the postmaster, Mr. Lonnie Dolphin.

Following the invocation by Rev. C. W. Shelby, of Lane's Chapel, a welcome address was delivered by Mr. M. W. Lee. The speaker of the evening, and representing the postal department, was then introduced by Rev. J. Thorton, pastor of Wards Chapel.

Following his presentation of warm greetings from the President of the United States, Mr. Kleingger then said to the audience "and I also bring you greetings and best wishes from our wonderful post master general, Arthur E. Summerfield." Then fol

Arthur E. Summerfield."

"The dedication of a new postal facility is always a happy and significant occasion. I think this fact is manifested here today by the presence of so many honored guests and local citizens.

"This new postal facility symbolizes a new era in communications in this community. It will be more pleasant for you, as postal patrons, to do business here. And it will be more pleasurable for our postal employees to serve you here, and provide even better service for you. This new postal facility is an important link with the more than 37,000 post offices over the nation serving in our postal system.

"In our 37,000 post offices, about 9 times the number of the nation's largest grocery chains, we will handle about 23 billion dollars this year. And we will sell more than 24 billion stamps of all denominations.. Our more than 32,000 rural letter carriers each day will travel the equivalent of several times to the moon.

"This year, our 520,000 employees, more than twice as many postal employees as there are U. S. Marines, making the post office department the largest civilian agency of the federal government, will be instrumental in delivering to American homes nearly 60 billion pieces of mail, about twice the volume of a single generation ago. And in 10 years our volume will be at least 70 billion."

250

BOLEY, OKLAHOMA

50 1956

What Will All-Negro Towns Like Boley Do In Wake of Integration?

50

By ROBERT C. D. TIEUEL JR.

BOLEY, Okla.— This reporter has just concluded a whirlwind tour or three of the largest all-Negro communities in the nation. The other two, Taft and Langston, like this one, contain at least one state-owned-operated institution with Taft, Okla., boasting of three.

Call P.14

In addition, Boley has until recently boasted of two banks, with one national and one state which are now merged. This incorporated town also boasts of being older than the state of Oklahoma, which came into statehood in 1907, and Boley was founded in 1904.

Kansas City, Mo

Oddly enough this town was named after a white man, who owned a major share in the railroad that brought hundreds upon hundred of early settlers from Texas, Louisiana and other southern states, in its infancy.

Two Schools Of Thought

In dozens of interviews with the citizens here, this writer found that there are two distinct schools of thought on the blazing issue of integration. A majority of the younger people with a sprinkling of the older set believe that Boley as an all-Negro town has served its day and the only direction the town can travel now is downward unless whites with capital are invited to establish here; the other is that Boley can still go forward if citizens exert more determination and enthusiasm in going forward and prove that Negroes are capable of self-government.

The $64 Question

Afro 2-18-56

The big question and argument that is rocking the entire state is: will the Boley Training School for Negro Boys, which represents an investment of more than a half-million dollars be dismantled and moved to Stringtown, the present location of the all-white school, or will the state of Oklahoma be democratic enough to send in any overflow of boys at Stringtown to Boley and integrate at Boley, if integration is the issue?

Bob Henson, pioneer educator and present head of the Boley school summed up one side this way: "Our doors are open for boys and personnel of every creed and color. If Oklahoma sends boys here, there will be no segregation or discrimination." In a later release your reporter will take up another aspect of the $64 question in Oklahoma.

Integration Problem Worries All-Negro Town In Okla.

Daily World P. 3

Fri. 2-17-56

By Robert C. D. Tieuel, Jr.

50X

BOLEY, Okla.—(ANP)— Oklahoma has three of the largest all-Negro communities in the nation — Boley, Taft and Langston. I have just concluded a tour of each of them.

In Boley, I found a growing controversy over the matter of integration, with a majority of the younger residents feeling that the town has served its purpose.

Atlanta, Ga.

This group contends that nothing but decline is left for Boley unless white capital is invited to invest here. But most older citizens say that Boley can still go forward if its citizens exert more determination and enthusiasm to prove that Negroes are capable of self government.

Until recently, Boley boasted of two banks, one state and the other federal. Now they have merged.

This incorporated town alos boasts of being older than the seat of Oklahoma, which came into being in 1907, some three years after the founding of Boley.

Oddly enough, the all-Negro town was named after a white man who owned a major share in the railroad that brought early settlers from Texas, Louisiana and other southern states.

One big question is bothering the residents of Boley and many other Oklahoma citizens as the problem of integration becomes more pressing.

There is wide spread speculation whether the $500,000 Boley Training School for Negro Boys will be moved to Stringtown, the present location of an all white school or whether the state will send white students to Boley.

Bob Henson poineer educator and present head of the Boley school, summed it up this way:

"Our doors are open for boys and personnel of every creed and color. If Oklahoma sends boys here, there will be no discrimination or segregation."

Towns and Settlements — 1913

5

RENTIESVILLE, OKLAHO

THE COLORED MAN'S CHANCE IN THE RICH AND PROSPEROUS

NEW OKLAHOMA

Dallas Express — 3-22-13

DELIGHTFUL HOMES—FREEDOM AND PROSPERITY.

A town of School Advantages, Churches, Beautiful Houses, etc.; an ideal location, the place to live, the proven land for the Farmer, Business Man or Investor. The miles of trade producing territory alone will insure the future of this town. Then add regular rainfall, crops growing to perfection, a delightful climate, and natural resources too numerous to mention.

RENTIESVILLE has an abundance to accord success and greatness to a commercial and industrial city of several thousand people. It has the snap and farming country with which to back up a good town.

On the great M. K. & T. Railway System is Rentiesville, with miles of vast stretches of rich prairie and bottom land, dotted with clusters of trees for miles, as pretty as a park.

We include the oil and gas feature, which with the development along the oil line is going to make many wealthy people in Oklahoma. Give your self a chance.

RENTIESVILLE, OKLAHOMA,
THE COLORED MAN'S CHANCE.

Located in the center of as rich and productive land as can be found in the Southwest. The point was selected as the natural business point, the location being selected with a view of establishing a town and colony for colored people, where they can boast of as fine a site and country as can be desired.

The town, while new, has many buildings that would be a credit to a much older and larger place. Many business lines are represented, with a postoffice, cotton gin, saw mill, numerous churches, big new stone school building, also the principal secret orders are represented.

The town is incorporated, and well located for every commercial advantage. All the officers are able colored people.

What more is needed to back up and insure rapid growth than the advantages and natural resources briefly outlined? It is now a marvel for growth and prosperity; YOUR OPPORTUNITY IS HERE. The field is open, resources unlimited, where you have a guarantee of flattering returns from a small investment and reasonable labor.

COLORED PEOPLE,
PUT A FEW DOLLARS IN RENTIESVILLE, OKLAHOMA, PROPERTY AND LET THE PROFIT GROW WITH THE COUNTRY.
HOW YOU HAVE GROWN!
IS WHAT THEY ALL SAY ABOUT RENTIESVILLE, OKLAHOMA.

Yes, and we are still going.

Property has gradually advanced; lots purchased a short time ago show a profit of 30 to 50 per cent., and will coninue advancing.

Don't wait and pay big prices.

THE CLIMATE

is temperate, without excessive extremes; hot nights are unknown. Winters are mild, rainfall abundant and regular. No crop failures, an excellent and well-distributed water supply of the best quality, furnished by creeks, branches and springs, with abundance of cold well water near the surface, usually in sand

sources, oil, coal, gas, timber, lead, zinc and brick sha
bining our agricultural and mineral resources, there is absolute
no country to equal us.

The best news to you is the Negro has a chance here with EVERYTHING IN HIS FAVOR. SUCH CONDITIONS EXIST IN NO OTHER COUNTRY.

If you do not have two or more lots, secure them at once. Remember, prices will keep going up.

IN RENTIESVILLE, OKLAHOMA,
THE PROSPEROUS AND GROWING NEGRO TOWN

THE PRICE is placed on each lot according to location and lay of ground. We allow 5 per cent. discount for cash, or $5.00 to $10.00 down and the balance in monthly payments. Send your order for two or more lots, enclose what you can spare, and we will take care of you. **Do not spend money running around. Remember the expense of a trip will buy two or three good lots.** Do not think you have to come to buy, for when you do come we agree that if you prefer any other unsold property, we will exchange at an equal price per our list. You will get better lots now with our aid than to wait to come. Don't wait, you lose by it; we treat you fair.

If you wait you positively pay some one a handsome profit. Buy now, make money and have a home. Remember, low prices, lots limited and the strong backing in the resources.

DO NOT BE ONE TO REGRET. DO BUSINESS NOW.

THE NEGRO'S CHANCE.
PROSPERITY, FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE.
RENTIESVILLE, OKLAHOMA.

In the town and country freedom and independence can be enjoyed by the Negro in the full sense of the term. He can really enjoy and appreciate the opportunities and surroundings, the court, commercial and general courtesy that is extended to him IN NO OTHER COUNTRY. His wife and children are treated with the same courtesy on the public thoroughfare as accorded other nationalities,

In our town and country the opportunity awaits you, every business, professional and mechanical line is open to you, with every religion and educational advantage that can be asked for; a place where you have REPRESENTATION, where you learn to appreciate and know something of LOCAL and NATIONAL GOVERNMENT. Engage with us and bask in the sunshine of UNRESTRICTED FREEDOM, PROSPERITY and INDEPENDENCE.

OIL AND GAS PROSPECTS GO WITH THESE LOTS.

Don't buy a little square in an oil field that is worthless. These lots are fine, in the original town, with wide streets and alleys. They are worth the money if you do not get any oil or gas.

MR. COLORED MAN,
WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO START A HOME, OR TO TURN YOUR MONEY TO PROFIT MAKING?
TRY
RENTIESVILLE, OKLAHOMA.

Cotton, corn, all grains, grasses, vegetables and berries can be grown successfully; the land is easily tilled. Diversity of crops is a great advantage, obviating the necessity of dependence upon one or two staples. Hundreds have inspected the site and rock.

DON'T FORGET THIS INCLUDES THE OIL AND GAS FEATURE.

PROPERTY IN
RENTIESVILLE, OKLAHOMA,
WILL BE ADVANCED SOON.
FRIENDS, GET IN NOW!
OIL AND GAS PROSPECTS AND VALUABLE TOWN LOT,
ALL AT THE PRICE OF ONE.

REMEMBER, no country can grow within the same bounds such a variety of money-making crops. The land is productive beyond description, easily farmed and rainfall certain, crops sure. When you plant you reap. Add to this the great mineral re-

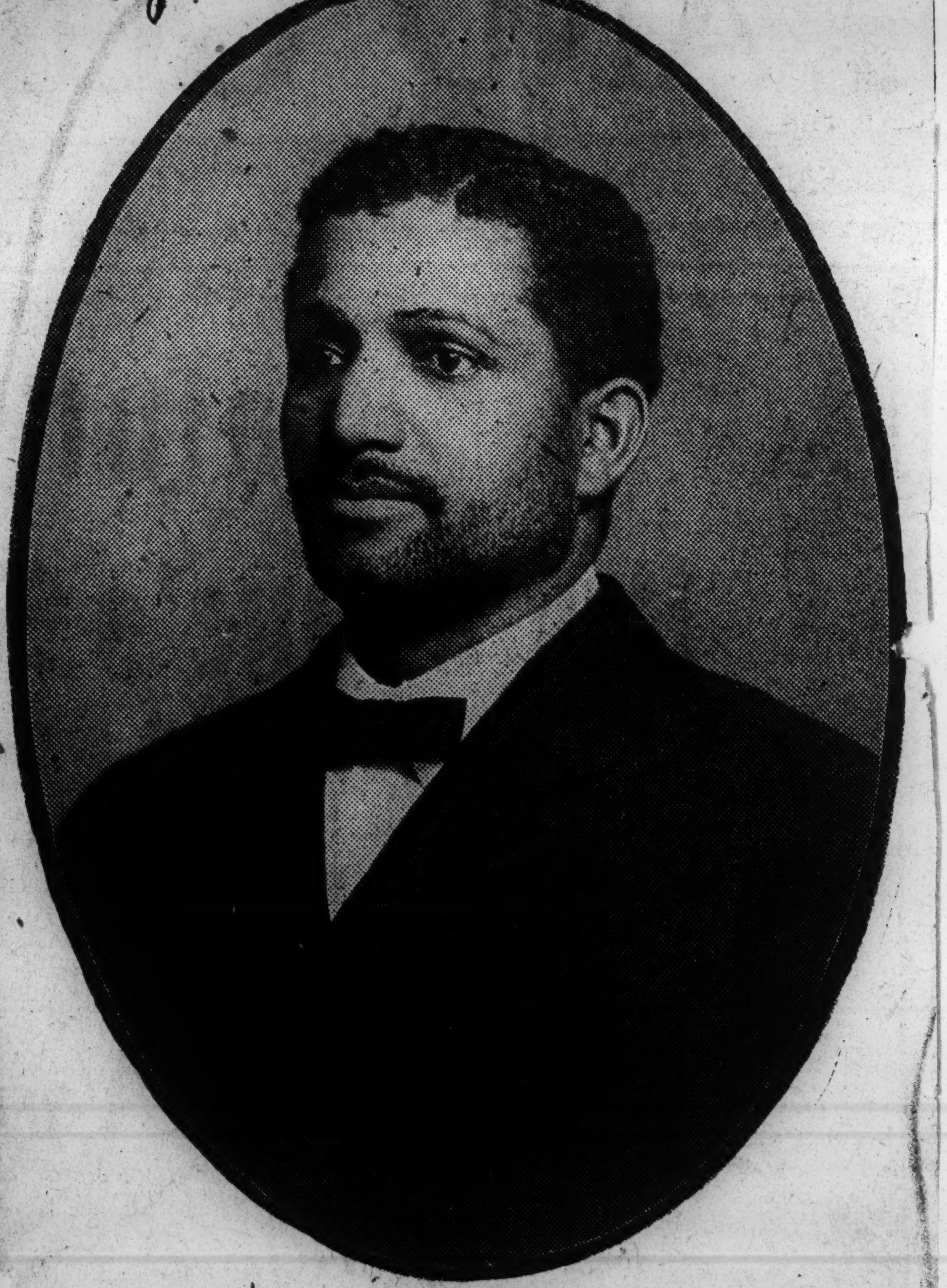
stated it was far better than advertised. You must see it to appreciate it. Remember town lots are the shortest highway to wealth. Happiness, freedom and independence are yours if you accept. Engage in any legitimate business you like. Now is your time to secure a foothold, don't wait, after awhile it will take more capital and be harder to start in. There is absolutely no point better for you than Rentiesville, with its fertile soil and natural resources. Think of living in such a glorious country with all its freedom and prosperity.

Don't forget, valuable town property, and the oil and gas feature goes with it. May make you wealthy some day.

Address all letters to

RENTIESVILLE PROMOTING CO.,
227 Court Street, Muskogee, Okla.

The Journal



Mr. Berry O'Kelley, Method, N. C.

Towns—1915

12

Town

Institute, West Virginia.

Pop. — — ——— 600

see under Historical

letter from Mr. Byrd Prillerman
President West Virginia Collegiate
Institute.

Negro settlement—

Vicinity of Dodgeville Wisconsin. Ancestors of brought from South by Henry Dodge, first territorial governor of Wisconsin. Before leaving the South they agreed to serve him 5 yrs. At the appointed time Dodge gave each man it is said 40 acres of land & a yoke of Oxen.

Frederick Merk of Wisconsin State Historical Society— Cleveland Plaindealer 8-21-

Negro Town

Camp Nelson Ky.

Fee Memorial Institute school.

Town 7 miles from Nicholasville
H. W. McNair Principal
Not a white person in Camp Nelson
see letter from H. W. McNair to
Principal Washington 3-11-15

Constitution
4-11-15

EXCLUSIVE COLORED LOTS
LOTS CAN BE BOUGHT IN
MEADOW BROOK
——FROM——
$25.00 TO $49.00
NO TAXES—we pay them. NO INTEREST—we charge none.
TERMS: 49 CENTS A WEEK.
——DESCRIPTION——
One block of car line—33 minutes' ride to center of Atlanta.
FOR FULL PARTICULARS CALL OR WRITE
MEADOW BROOK LAND CO., Inc.
104 NORTH PRYOR ST. PHONE IVY 5338.

Oklahoma ❧ A Squint at Negro Enterprise in That Land of Promise.

By THEO. BAUGHMAN, Special Scribe.

RACE GLEANINGS.

Picked Up In Oklahoma—Thrifty People And What They Are Doing.

One of the stalwart Baptist ministers at Rentiesville is Rev. N. A. Robinson, who is the able pastor of the First Baptist church, an edifice worth $1,500, and which has a membership of 150. He has a good church at Boynton, with a live membership. For 33 years he has poured hot shot into the ranks of the devil and has fought ignorance at all times. Ten magnificent churches at different parts of the world have been erected by this God-sent man. He has a good 60 acre farm and a block and good home at Rentiesville, a place that he founded in 1903, 12 years ago. Twelve years ago Rentiesville was nothing less than a wilderness, but today, 600 happy souls reside there, some owning good homes and farms.

The A. M. E. church was first started at Rentiesville 9 years ago by Rev. ————. At first this congregation offered their prayers up to the Master in a tent, but at present they have a good church building and an able pastor in the person of Rev. R. B. Thomson, a son of thunder for 22 years. This church will take new life under such an able man. The Plaindealer can say for the people there that the church made no mistake in sending such a man.

Mr. Thomas Hawkins who owns 40 acres of good farm land at Rentiesville, has embarked into the hog-raising business. This man owns a good place and will do an extensive hog business.

The affairs of Uncle Sam at Rentiesville, Okla., are ably looked after by Hon. B. C. Frankin, who is making an efficient postmaster. This brilliant man is one of Blackstone's apostles and is recognized as an able lawyer. For one dozen years, he has had his shingle to the breeze, and has let the world know that he is a lawyer. His wife is also engaged in the millinery and notion business and he owns a good home, also some valuable property at Ardmore. This class of men are the ones that the Negro youth must take note of.

Mr. J. H. Iverson, is a man of worth at Rentiesvlle. He is owner of the Iverson Hotel, the only hotel in the city. His beds are clean and his food is cooked right. In connection with same he has a grocery and confectionery business. He owns his large two-story business place, as well as other property. He is a member of the city council, and is one of the doers about Rentiesville. When you are there, see him. His wife is his able manager.

Mr. Artis Bingham is serving the M. K. and T. railway at Rentiesville as agent. This young man is filling the position with credit. He has attended school at Prairie View State Normal and Industrial College, and Langston College. Such young men are a credit to our race.

Dr. J. J. Lowe, who is a graduate from West Tennessee University, of Memphis, class 1905, has reflected credit on that well known school. For 10 years he has followed his profession at Rentiesville, and has conducted himself in a way that every one has a good word for him. His literary touches were put on him at Branch Normal, Pine Bluff, Ark., and Dr. Lowe is some scholar. Such men of Dr. Lowe's calibre are sure to make good.

It was a pleasure indeed to be in the home of Widow Lucy Jones, who at one time resided at Victoria, Tex. She owns a modern home and a 40 acre farm, one of the best at Rentiesville. Her daughter, Mrs. Lillie B. McGee is supervisor of the Industrial Departments of the colored schools of McIntosh county, and receives her salary from the Jean's Fund. This cultured little lady received her training at Agusta, Me., and is one of the race's ripe scholars, and is giving complete satisfaction. Your scribe has known her since childhood, and at one time she was taught by a member of our family. We are indeed pleased to note her record as an educator. Her husband, Mr. McGee is engaged in a confectionery business at Rentiesville. Mrs. McGee has been a teacher for

Plaindealer 11-13-15

seven years, and has made good. Her brother, Mr. Chas. Jones is an alderman, and a successful farmer. The scribe has been acquainted with the Jones' for many years and during the life time of Elder Jones, he was our true friend.

While at Rentiesville, we visited the general merchandise store of Prof. F. P. Brinson, who carries a stock worth $1,200. For 12 years he served the race as a teacher, but 17 years ago he gave up the school room for business, at which he has been a decided success. He owns his business place—a $500 house, and four other good places with 120 town lots. An addition known as Brinson's Addition. These lots are for sale on easy terms to the race. He owns a lumber yard and stock in the steam gin, and in fact he is a live wire in that city. Miss Viola Brinson a cultured lady indeed and a teacher in the city school, is his daughter. Prof. Brinson is a member of the town council and is full of push. He has a good home presided over by an excellent wife. His family is indeed an interesting one. Such men as Prof. Brinson are compelled to succeed. Prof. Brinson boasts of having graduated five daughters, who are recognized as leaders in the educational world.

Prof. W. A. Hill is at the head of the educational work at Rentiesville. The school building is a two story, 6 rooms and cost $10,000, and the enrollment is 200. Four teachers are employed. They are: Miss Viola Brinson, Mrs. Mary Jones, Mrs. Jennie M. Hill. This makes a strong faculty and the people made no mistake in selecting them. Prof. Hill is at the head of the Normal in session there, and the outlook is bright for a successful normal. There will be more than 80 in attendance.

A LARGE NEGRO CORPORATION

Recently Organized In Florida By Prominent Negro Capitalists From Several States

A recent development in the material progress of the race in the south is the organization of the Florida Home and Investment Corporation, a company which is incorporated for fifty thousand dollars under the laws of the state of Florida, with headquarters in the corporation's own building in the business section of the city of Jacksonville at 413 Broad street.

In many respects this new organization has already outstripped anything undertaken by the race within recent years in the manner of acquiring land and in bringing together men of prominence, ability and personal resources. This company has purchased more than ten thousand acres of fertile land about forty miles from Jacksonville in Bradford county, and is situated in the northeastern part of the state, reputed to be one of the best farming districts in the south. The soil of Bradford county is described as being of sandy loam, underlaid with a clay subsoil, affording drainage and sufficient body to hold the moisture necessary to grow several bumper crops yearly.

It is beautifully located one hundred and forty five feet above sea level with practically no Swamp land, bearing an abundance of pine and quite a variety of other timber. The land is set with two large fresh water lakes, several creeks, branches and riverlets. At its lowest point it is one hunderd and fifty feet above Jacksonville. It is situated nearly in the center of the county and is surrounded by many farms, truck gardens, orange groves, orchards and strawberry plots. Starks, the county seat, and Lawtey, of the same county are known as Florida's early strawberry centers.

The Atlantic Coast Line Railroad passes through the property, the Georgia Southern and Florida and the Seaboard railroads pass within a mile and one-half of the tract.

The property is ten miles square, being a little larger than the District of Columbia, our national capitol. The land has been laid off in city and town blocks by Mr. J. A. Lankford, the architect. Provisions have been made also for small and large farms ranging from five to one hundred and sixty acres each. This tract is laid off with beautiful parks, driveways and is shrouded in shrubbery.

Some of the best business and professional men in the country are interested in the corporation and are officers of the company. The president of the Corporation is Mr. W. L Girardeau, a large real estate holder and merchant. Rev. John E. Ford, pastor of Bethel Baptist Institutional church, the largest colored church in Florida, is vice president; Col. W. S. Sumpter is secretary. He is a large real estate holder and is also connected as officer and director of many other concerns in Jacksonville. Mr. J. C. Baker, who owns and runs one of the largest wagon, buggy and blacksmith shops in the state, is treasurer. Mr. G. W. Powell is one of the vice-presidents and general manager of the corporation. He is nationally known as a safe and sound promoter
k ... real estate lines and in or-
alo. ...ing this company has succeed-
ganiz. ...inging together such men
ed in b... as Dr. S. L. Warren,
as directo. Huguley, Dr. J. W.
Dr. J. W. M. F. McCleary, Mr.
Darden, Dr. ... Prof. Charles F.
R. A. Dozier, C. Porter, At-
Frazier, Rev. A. ... Mr. W. J.
torney I. L. Purcell ...lier, Rev. S.
Geter, Prof. N. W. Col... homas Mc-
A. Williams and Mr. Th... dams is
Clendon. Mr. M. S. A...
cashier of the company.

Among the recent prominent pur... chasers of the company are D... George W. Adams, banker, Durham, N. C., Rev. P. James Bryant of Atlanta, pastor of the largest Baptist church in Georgia; Mr. W. P. Evans, prominent merchant, Laurinburg, N. C.; Prof. W. H. Knuckles, president of Thompson Institute, Lumberton, N. C., and many others of more or less note.

A NEW NEGRO COLONY.

A Great Race Movement.

One of the greatest race movements among the Negroes in the country today is fostered by the Florida Home and Investment Corporation, a company which is incorporated for fifty thousand dollars under the laws of the State of Florida.

This company has purchased over ten thousand acres of fertile land in Bradford county in the northeastern part of the State about forty miles from Jacksonville in one of the best farming districts in the entire South. The soil of Bradford county is sandy loam underlaid with a clay subsoil affording drainage and sufficient "body" to hold the moisture necessary to grow several bumper crops yearly.

It is beautifully located one hundred and forty-five feet above the sea level, with practically no swamp land, there being an abundance of pine and quite a variety of other timber. It has two large fresh water lakes, with several creeks, branches and riverlets. The land at its lowest point, being over one hundred and thirty feet above Jacksonville. It is situated nearly in the center of the county and is surrounded with many prolific farms truck gardens, orange groves, fruit orchards and strawberry farms. Starks, the county seat, and Lawtey of the same county are known as Florida's early strawberry centers.

The Atlantic Coast Line Railroad passes through the property and the Georgia and Florida Southern and Seaboard Air Line Railroads pass in a mile and one-half of the track. It is ten miles square, being a little larger than the District of Columbia, our national capital.

Prof. J. A. Lankford, M. M. S., the noted pioneer Negro architect and mechanical engineer, has just finished making the drawings of the entire outlay which he has laid off in city and town blocks and in small and large farms, ranging from five to one hundred and sixty acres each. This track laid off with beautiful parks, driveways, lakes and trees is choice lands for towns and cities.

Some of the best business and professional men of the country are interestel in the corporation, and officers of the company.

Mr. W. L. Girardeau, who is a large real estate holder and merchant, is president of the company. Mr. John E. Ford, pastor of Bethel Baptist church, which is the largest Negro church in Florida, is vice-president; Col. W. S. Sumter is secretary. He is a large real estate holder and is also connected as an officer and director with more business enterprises in Jacksonville than any other Negro. Mr. J. C. Baker is the treasurer. He ownes, manages and runs one of the largest wagon, buggy and blacksmith shops in the State. Mr. G. W. Powell is one of the vice-presidents and general manager of the Corporation, he is nationally known as a safe a... sound promoter along real estate li... and has succeeded in organizing th... company in bringing together such men as directors as Rev. M. C. B. Mason, Dr. S. L. Warren, Dr. J. W. Huguley, Dr. J. W. Darden, Dr. M. F. McCleary, Mr. R. A. Dozier, Prof. Chas. R. Frazier, Rev. A. C. Porter, Attorney I. L. Purcell and Mr. W. J. Geter, Prof. N. W. Collier, Rev. S. A. Williams and Mr. Tombs McClendon, Mr. M. S. Adams is cashier for the company. Those who would like to learn more of the company may write the Secretary at 413 Broad St., Jacksonville, Fla. The company recently moved into its own building at the above address. 413 Broad street.

Colored Mayor Lands Mayor

Palestine Hist

2/13/15

Houston, Texas, Feb. 10.—The only Negro city in Texas was organized with a Negro administration at the head of the community's affairs. The city is Independence Heights. A mayor and city commissioners were inaugurated last night

The mayor is G. O. Burgess. S. C. Lamonthe and A. M. McCullough are the commissioners. The oath of office was administers by Chas. F. Smith. At a recent election the commission form of government was chosen for the municipality.

In his inaugural address Mayor Burgess praised the Houston city government under Mayor Campbell and urged the Negro citizens of the Heights to stand together behind his administration.

Other addresses were delivered. A program was rendered by the pupils of the Independence Heights school.—Houston Chronicle.

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University Heights, Okla.

THE OPENING OF A NEW TOWN DEDICATED TO THE EDUCATION OF THE

COLORED RACE,

AND DESTINED TO BE THE GREATEST EDUCATIONAL CENTER IN THE WORLD FOR THE COLORED RACE.

The Topeka plaindeal

An opportunity to make money. A chance to assist your race in the greatest struggle of life. An opportunity to educate your children in order that they may become noble men and women, respected and honored by their fellowmen.

June 21, 12

AN OPPORTUNITY TO OWN YOUR OWN HOME ON EASY TERMS. WE PAY ALL TAXES. TERMS 5 PER CENT DOWN AND $5.00 PER MONTH THEREAFTER.

WARRANTY DEED AND ABSTRACT OF TITLE GIVEN.

Address All Communications to

University Heights Co.

OKMULGEE, ☘ OKLA.

50 1954

TUSKEGEE NEIGHBORHOOD (BEGGS, OKLA).

Tuskegee Neighborhood Families Hold Work Day

BEGGS, Okla. — Thirty five farm people met at the Tuskegee Neighborhood for a work ~~day Fri~~day, July 9, 1954.

The Neighborhood has chosen as its projects, the improving of ground around the Tuskegee cemetery.

Men, women and children spent the entire Friday evening cleaning up the abandoned school that has been secured for the Neighborhood center — cutting grass and weeds off the ground, moving fence, rocks, posts and brush off the yard. The Neighborhood center is adjacent to the church and will be used for recreation purposes for both the church group and the neighborhood activities.

The Tuskegee Neighborhood will give an entertainment Thursday night July 22, at the Tuskegee Neighborhood center for the purpose of raising money to complete city projects. The public is cordially invited.

The Tuskegee Neighborhood has entered the Oklahoma Rural Neighborhood Progress Contest that is sponsored by the Farmer-Stockman and the Extension service. They are giving $500 to the district in five prizes; first $150; second, $123; third, $100; fourth, $75; and fifth $50.

Officers of the Neighborhood are: Elijah Nash, Sr., chairman; Charlie Shaw, vice chairman; Elijah Nash, vice chairman, (boy); Carl Etta Dodd, vice chairman (girl); Clarence Friday, Secretary.

This work is sponsored by Alfreda J. Vaughn, home demonstration agent and C. D. Ashley, county farm agent.

50

Eagle

p. 6

7-15-54

July

Okla

Towns and Settlements - 1938

Oklahoma

169

Oklahoma Negro Towns' History to Be Compiled

Black Dispatch
9-18-38
Oklahoma City
Okla.

With a program which includes the writing of a labor history of the State, a history of the State's Negro towns, and an Encyclopedia of Oklahoma, the Federal Writers' Project recently increased its staff by fifteen people and has taken quarters in the Municipal Auditorium. Two project publications, issued in the past three months, have been well received by the public, according to Jim Thompson, director. These are Tulsa: A Guide to the Oil Capital, sponsored by the Tulsa and A Calendar of Annual Events in Oklahoma, sponsored by the State Travel and Tourist Bureau. Calls from a number of eastern and northern states have come in for the Tulsa Guide; and a first edition of 15,000 copies of the Calendar already is practically exhausted.

Since its inception more than two years ago, the Writers Project has compiled a study of 197 mision in Oklahoma, an English-Comanche dictionary, a State almanac, a guide to Oklahoma City (now awaiting sponsorship), and broadcast over Station KOMA. It a series of radio plays, soon to be also has prepared as its major work, the Oklahoma State Guide which is to be published by the Viking Press, Inc.

This last book is an encyclopedia as well as a guide to the State, from history to highways, from native Indians to natural resources, from industrial trends to traffic laws. It contains approximately 180,000 words, or considerably less than "Gone With The Wind" or "Anthony Adverse," but those words are the boiled-down essence of some 400,000 written in the course of preparing the book. At one time more than a hundred workers, most of them drawn from the relief rolls, were engaged in gathering material for the guide. They delved into ancient, age-yellowed volumes, pored through the files of several hundred newspapers, talked to Indians and early settlers; they interviewed college professors, scientists, outlaws, park superintendents, and game wardens. At the State headquarters of the project in Oklahoma City, everything that was not vital and interesting in these reports was culled out, and the manuscripts were woven into a continuity. This was sent to the national headquarters of the project at Washington for final checking and editing.

History of Negro Towns in Oklahoma

Towns-1915

14

DOUGLASS PARK Pleasantville,

For the Exclusive Use and Development of the Colored Race

Why Pay Rent? Why Not Own Your Own H

There was no greater apostle of land and home ownership for the colored people than BOOKER T. WASHINGTON, America's foremost Negro, who was one of its LEADING and GREATEST CITIZENS.

HON. FREDERICK A. DOUGLASS said: "My advice ber of my race is, OWN A PIECE OF LAND AND BU Be a land-owner and be independent."

The Atlanta Independent.

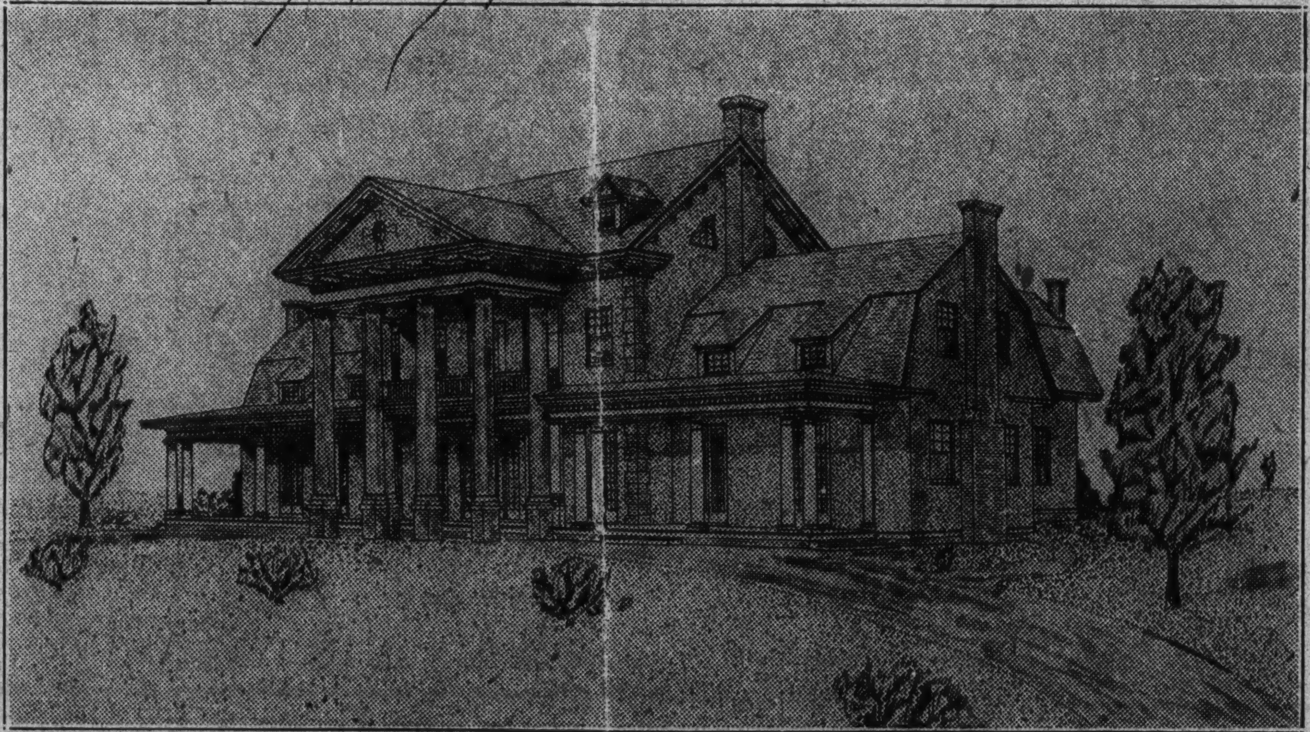
12/18/15

The Location of Douglass Park is Ideal for a Home Site or Investment Purposes

DOUGLASS PARK is located on Washington Avenue and is between this avenue and the Electric Line running between Philadelphia and Atlantic City. Washington Avenue extends into what is known as the back boulevard to Mays Landing and Philadelphia. Hundreds of autoists find it one of the finest roads in the State. These lots are 40 feet higher than the central section of Pleasantville and 60 feet higher than Atlantic City. Persons who like fishing and boating will like Douglass Park, it being a short distance from the great fishing bays, and those who wish to enjoy home life and are tired of the cramped conditions of some of the hovels rented to them in the city, will be glad of the opportunity to buy a lot and build a home in Douglass Park.

Lots $175 to $300, small cash payment and balance on Easy Terms.

If you want a home; if you want to rear your children as healthy youngsters; if you want to be a land owner; if you are tired of having your nose on the grindstone for the landlords; if you want to be independent, then you will want to purchase a lot in Douglass Park.



PROPOSED CLUB HOUSE FOR THE LINCOLN COUNTRY CLUB

The Lincoln Country Club has been incorporated. Membership cards are ready to be issued.

What Douglass Park

In the heart of Douglass has been established THE COUNTRY CLUB only six Atlantic City.

Golf

Golf is the leading health g world, and nature never prepa ideal spot than the place Douglass Links are laid out.

You can not appreciate Doug until you see them. Tennis, Football and Basketball with door amusements are availab

Free Transportatio

Can be obtained of our age calling at our offices. Out-o vestors will be sent full partic request.

Title Guaranteed

The title to this property is perfect, the abstract having fully examined by the Compa neys and found to be faultless. ranty Deed will be given as so sired.

Douglass Land Co.

Rooms 14-23-24-25 Schwartz-Riddle Buildi

OFFICERS
ISAAC H. NUTTER, President
H. P. ANDERSON, Secy. and Treas.

Atlantic City, New

Towns and Settlements — 1921. Pennsylvania.

KING TO VISIT MOUNT NEGRO

Afro-American

Somerset County Residents Plant Welcome For Liberia's President

6/17/21

Mount Negro, Penn.

Somerset, Pa., June 16—Mount "Negro", the spot where tradition says a colored man fell fighting for civilization before the French and Indian War had reached the state of formal hostilities, will attract to its summit Saturday June 18th two distinguished colored visitors in President King of Liberia, and Honorable J. C. Asbury of the Pennsylvania legislature.

The mountain is located on the trail which became the famous Braddock Road. The fact that a Negro fell fighting for his country long before the Revolution, and that his name is lost to history does not detract in the least from President King's desire to visit the spot.

The "Somerset Democrat," white says of the black here: His valor. his sacrifice are imperishable and the scene of his death should be preserved, and enduring memorial, to which all regardless of race or color may come as a shrine.

Towns and Settlements-1924.

Pennsylvania.

Negro Mountain Is Highest Point In Pennsylvania

Harrisburg, Pa., July 20—Somerset leads other Pennsyivania counties in the altitude of its mountain, according to Colonel Henry W. Shoemaker, of McElhattan, one of the state's leading conservationalists, in an article in a department of highways' bulletin, entitled "Facts Motorists Should Know." Some of the higher mountains are listed.

Afro-American

In Somerset county Colonel Shoemaker names Negro mountain, 3220 feet; Big Spring Summit, 3169; Laurel Run Summit, and Peck's Peak, 3135 and 3120 feet, respectively, and Old Fort Hill Summit and Mount View School Knob, 3100 feet. Several others above the 3000 foot height are named.

7-25-24

Martin's Hill Bedford County, has an altitude of 3$76 feet while Indian Creek Summit and Panther Rock Hill, Westmoreland county, and Clay Run summit and Sugar Loaf, Fayette county, have altitudes of 3000 feet.

Other mountains ranging at or above the 2000-foot height are found in Potter, Clinton, Susquehana, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Wyoming, Franklin, Centre and Fulton.

It is said that "Negro Mountain" was so named because of large number of Negroes who found refuge there during slavery. They married among the Scotch-Irish and now form a very beautiful settlement of "white" people with olive skin and black silken curls. They are frequently spoken of in Somererset township.

Another legend is tothe effect that a Negro thru a wonderful act of bravery on this spot saved part of a British expedition under Col. George Washington and General Braddock, before the Revolutionary war. The county held special exercises at the official dedication of the mountain two years ago.

Towns and Settlements - 1935

Texas.

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EAST TEXAS CITIZENS PROMOTE PLANS FOR AN ALL-NEGRO TOWN

Informer 8-24-35

Houston —

More than a decade ago a number of enterprising colored citizens of East Texas conceived the idea of the establishment of a Negro town in the Southeastern part of Gregg County, Texas. Some of the most outstanding educators, ministers and business men took an active part in the matter of building a town to be owned, controlled and operated entirely by Negroes. Pursuant to that purpose they purchased approximately 1800 acres of land, including a townsite called Easton, 17 miles Southeast of Longview, where the Longview and Easton Highway connects with the Easton-Henderson Highway on the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe Railroads. These pioneers in the matter of Negro town building, were overtaken by the present era of depression, and as result thereof, the Grand Lodge Colored Knights of Pythias of Texas acquired the unsold portion of said 1800 acres together with all of the unsold town lots in the town of Easton.

Since the acquisition of the property in fee simple by court record title, the Grand Lodge Colored Knights of Pythias of Texas has disposed of, in various small tracts about 1200 acres of the farm land and about 50 or 60 of the town lots In this section of the State for something like 10 miles square, about 95 per cent of the land area is owned and cultivated by members of our group.

The Grand Lodge Colored Knights of Pythias of Texas, under the laws of this State, is required to make sale and disposition of the land within five year period after acquisition of the same, and on Monday, September 2, 1935, which is Labor Day, under the auspices of said Grand Lodge Colored Knights of Pythias of Texas, a big Barbecue, Picnic and Red Letter Lot Sale will be had at the town of Easton, and our group of people are invited to attend this picnic from every section of the State, to the end that they may be on the ground and see for themselves, the mammoth proposition which the colored citizens of East Texas are undertaking to promote. Recently, quite a number of well to do East Texas people have made purchases in the town of Easton, and at this writing, there is under construction, several buildings, and from all indications it would seem that the matter of the townsite is going over in a big way.

Mr. Columbus Watkins, a successful manufacturer of overalls and other wearing apparel, of Dallas, Texas, proposed to establish a factory at Easton, and is the Sales Agent for the Grand Lodge. You are advised that at this picnic and lot sale, there will be barbecue galore, and refreshments served absolutely free. The Committee is planning to entertain thousands of people, and proposes to have enough to satisfy the appetites of all those who plan to attend this celebration.

With respect to the land, it is said to be a fertile loam, and the Sales Agent represents that a visit to that section of the State will clearly demonstrate the fertility of the soil, and show the varied products that can be raised in great abundance. Monday, September 2 being Labor Day, it is assumed by the Committee that it will be convenient for a large delegation of citizens from different sections of the State to attend this big barbecue, picnic and lot sale.

There are paved roads within six miles of the town of Easton, and the road which is unpaved, is reputed to be in first class shape, and an all weather road.

A NEGRO TOWN—

Informer

The modern way of successful living is the way of cooperation. Either Negroes must learn to cooperate, or they must forever be the tailend of the parade toward better conditions and a more wholesome environment. Huston, Texas

The effort being launched by East Texas Negroes to establish a Negro town is one that is not to be scoffed at. We all know what happens to Negroes in the towns of the state in whose management he has no voice; and to say that Negroes cannot learn to run a town successfully is to convict us as a race of inferiority and to say that our schools and colleges are training our youth to no good purpose.

8-31-35

We must learn to cooperate or we cannot survive.

Towns and Settlements - 1937

Texas.

Texas Race Town Takes On New Life· Oil Is Discovered

State Pythian Lodge Has Big Tract In Heart of Section

KILGORE, Texas (ANP)—Drilling was started on a wildcat well at Easton Tuesday. Easton, the only all Negro town in Texas is located about 18 miles from Kilgore, and 11 miles from producing wells.

Drilling in this section has created much interest among Negroes because some 10 or 12 miles around are owned by colored men, including a large tract by the K. of P. of Texas.

White speculators are offering nice sums for land in this section but are being refused. Meantime, Negroes throughout the East Texas oil field are buying lots, leases and preparing for a first class Negro town in case oil is discovered.

M. J. Kennedy, who lives on his farm four miles from here and reputed to be one of the wealthiest colored oil men around 1500 acres near the Wildcat well.

Journal and Guide
6-26-37
Norfolk, Va.

Towns and Settlements-1933

Texas.

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COMMISSIONERS IN HEIGHTS MEET FOR FIRST TIME

Informer

The newly elected commissioners V. E. Porter, C. S. Kinlow and L Homer Kingston, of the Harris County Drainage District No. 9, held their first meeting last Friday evening. The commission was organized with Porter as chairman; Kingston, secretary, and Kinlow, treasurer. T. K. McElroy was appointed as attorney for the district.

2-4-33

Drainage district No. 9 includes the whole of Independence Heights, McComb Addition and East Independence Heights, and is said to be the only drainage district in Harris county presided over by an all-Negro commission. Heretofore this district has been under the direction of a white chairman and two Negro commissioners.

Houston, Tex.

The commissioners decided to make an inspection of the district to ascertain what can be done to relieve the taxpayers of the mud and slush caused by the poor drainage in the district No. 9.

Drainage Commission

How the determined vision of a Negro cowboy gave his people independence in their own community

“BONES” HOOKS and His Modern Pioneers

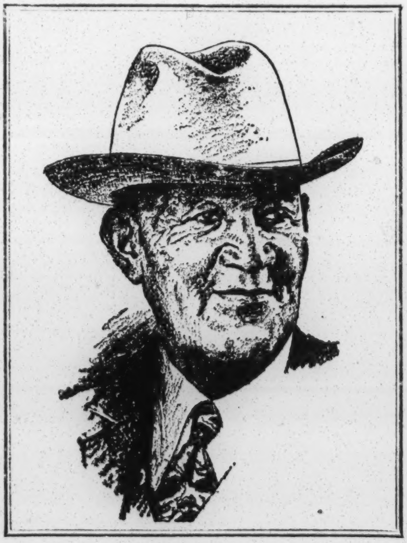
The Readers' Digest
Pleasantville, N.Y.
6-47

Condensed from St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Laura V. Hamner

“THIS IS the greatest thing that has happened to the Negro since Abraham Lincoln set us free,” said the Rev. Clarence Cyphers about his home, North Heights, Texas. The development, overlooking Amarillo, has neat, well-spaced houses, surrounded by trees, flowers and grass – all hard to grow in this part of the world. It was pioneered by a Negro, solely for Negroes.

North Heights is the realization of a lifelong dream of Matthew “Bones” Hooks, whose parents were slaves. Bones, in his career as cowboy and professional horsebreaker, had ridden through towns in which he found the sign, “Negro, Don't Let the Sun Go Down on You Here.” The idea of founding an exclusively Negro community grew to dominate his thoughts. It would be a town for Negroes bound by the economic shackles of the cotton country – a town not of renters but of homeowners.



Bones moved to Amarillo to work as a horsebreaker. He was already one of the noted cowboys of the West. He could ride horses bareback that experienced riders feared to attempt with saddle. With this reputation, Bones and his wife had no trouble buying in Amarillo. But other Negroes were not so well off. Like dregs in a cup, the Negroes had settled in the low part of the town in a rented shack section known as The Flats. Here they lived in an intermingling of gambling joints and homes, school and saloons, church and houses of prostitution.

Copyright 1947, Laura V. Hamner, and published by The Pulitzer Pub. Co., St. Louis, Mo.

(St. Louis Post-Dispatch, May 14, '47)

vors the *cuir de Russie,* or Russian leather types; as oak moss, scraped from trees in the Tyrol, does the chypres. In one perfume immensely popular in the United States and clamored for by all GIs in Paris, the star ingredient is castor oil.

Several methods of reducing flowers to essential oil absolutes are practiced. Enfleurage is the oldest: blossoms are laid on fat – pork or mutton – which absorbs the fragrance. When fully charged, the grease is "pomade." The oil is obtained by washing the pomade in alcohol and distilling. Another old method is distillation by steaming the blooms. After condensation the water and essential flower oil are separated by an intricate arrangement of high and low drainage taps, which take advantage of the floatability of oil.

Petrol extraction is the newest squeeze. Ether vapor, from a special gasoline obtained in the United States, is passed through the flowers in sealed vats to pick up their fragrance, which is then recovered by distillation.

Countless animals are slain in the search for ambergris, civet and musk – three animal products that give "life" to perfume as no other fixatives, synthetic or natural, can. Ambergris comes from the sperm whale, although nobody seems quite sure from which end, or what it is. Ethiopia is the principal source of civet, a secretion from the big cats of that name. They are kept in confinement and robbed once every two weeks. Musk is made from dried sacs of the male musk deer, which is killed by Tibetan hunters in the Himalayas so assiduously that it is in danger of extinction.

Formulas are the top secret documents of the odor industry. Knowing how to use them has made Grasse the richest town per capita in France.

Sure Cure

MANY irate citizens are complaining to the Better Business Bureaus about having merchandise mailed to them that they have not ordered and do not want – and then being billed for it. Not long ago a Chicago physician received such a package with the following letter: "We are taking the liberty of sending you three exceptionally fine ties. Because these ties have the approval of thousands of discriminating dressers, we know you will like them. Please send $2."

The indignant doctor replied: "I am taking the liberty of sending you $2 worth of extra fine pills. These pills have helped thousands and I am sure you will appreciate my thoughtfulness in sending them. Please accept them in payment of the ties which you sent me recently."

–The Report of the Chicago Better Business Bureau

North of the city was a desirable tract of 105 acres; it was far enough from the city to offer a pioneering challenge to first settlers, and near enough for them to hold jobs in own. The owners wanted $25,000, with $8500 down payment.

Bones went to the mayor, Lee Bivins, a wealthy cattleman who had befriended the Negroes many times in unostentatious ways. "I need help, Mr. Bivins," he said. "My people will never rise from poverty until they do s your people did – pioneer." He utlined his scheme.

Bivins decided to feel Bones out. ou've got money, Bones," he said. Why don't you make the down payent yourself?" 6 – 47

"If I do," Bones answered, "my ople will think I'm trying to make oney off them. If you do it, they'll ink it's something big."

So Bivins bought the land. Bones amed the development North eights. On September 15, 1926, a g opening sale, extensively adversed, was held. Down payments otaled $13,000. Then came a slump. Many who had been swayed by the excitement of mass-buying regretted making the initial payment. Bones devoted his days to promoting the Heights and persuading purchasers to keep their payments up.

The Negroes wouldn't listen. Bones realized they had to be shown. So he himself moved a house across the tracks and up the slope. He induced an old woman to do the same. Soon another family followed. North Heights had begun.

Then Bones put his lifetime savings – from horsebreaking, Pullman-portering, and from oil on a small tract that he owned – into a two-story building which he intended ultimately to be a hospital. No Negro doctor would go out to the Heights then, so Bones adapted the building for Negro gatherings, and called it Pioneer Hall.

He moved into the second floor, rented out apartments to those who were planning homes in the Heights, leased a clubroom to the Negro Masons, and furnished amusements in the large auditorium to attract prospective homeowners. He held dances every week; the admission fees enabled him to pay his living expenses, meet the monthly mortgage payments on his hall and be free to spend his time talking about the Heights. But for years that hall stood in treeless isolation on the short-grass plains, with only a pitifully few homes near it. 6 – 47

Meanwhile, Bones hammered at the theme he knew so well: "This country has grown from a wilderness just because white people sacrificed and worked early and late. They didn't sit down and wait for someone to give them something. They went after it themselves. That's what you've got to do."

A few more Negroes built near Pioneer Hall. Bones used his influence to get a water main extended from the city, then a gas main and electricity. A paved street was run through the center of the development. Pioneering in the Heights

Towns and Settlements-1922. Texas.

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PLAYING INTO HANDS OF ENEMY.

Pol

Houston Informer 7/1/22

The colored citizens of Independence Heights, the exclusive colored municipality adjoining Houston on the northwest, are about to engage in another bitter legal battle, according to news items published in the daily press during the week.

An election was held recently in Independence Heights for $130,000 bonds for civic improvements and it was declared successful at the polls by the vote of 65 to 56.

Dep

Now this election has been contested on the grounds of irregularities and fraud and the court has issued a writ commanding the sheriff to seize the ballot box used in said election.

In their petition the contestants allege that the bond issue was truly, actually and really defeated and pray the court to so hold, charging that one of the election officials carried some of the ballots in his hat out of sight of other persons and tampered with them.

There are thousands of people not residents of this colored town who are intensely interested and deeply concerned in its growth, progress and expansion.

But every time these legal tilts occur (and they seem to be as numerous as revolutions used to take place in Mexico) they simply strengthen the argument advanced and preached by the race's enemies that we are incapable and incompetent of self-government, self-determination and self-improvability; that given a government of the smallest dimensions we would tear it asunder with internal bickering and strife in record-breaking time.

The Informer does not dare assume the position that men have no right for redress through legal instrumentalities, and it is more to their credit to endeavor to rectify and remedy such wrongs through orderly processes than by autocratic, imperialistic and clandestine assumption of power and employment of force and violence to attain the given end and desired results.

Whatever may be the facts in the latest tangle and squabble in Independence Heights, the fact still remains that the race is being given a black eye by such disagreements and wrangles, while the growth and development of that community are being retarded and impeded beyond measure.

Factionalism is a deterrent and detriment to the growth, expansion and prosperity of any community, state or nation, and this colored town is no exception to the general rule.

Some will argue that white people have their differences and legal fiascos, but here is the difference: The colored race is judged and rated by the actions and antics of the few, while on the other hand, if a few white people fall out and raise unadulterated hades it is just those few people and their race is not placed in the same category with the malcontents, discontents and belligerents.

In other words, the most trivial and insignificant deed of the black man is magnified and heralded widely to the world, while the most heinous and atrocious act of his pale-face frater is minimized and given scant attention in the daily press.

The colored citizens of Independence Heights should bury the hatchet, sheath the sword and come off the battle field and wage internal war no longer, but all unite their forces and labor untiringly and unselfishly for the best interests of their municipality, race and society.

If there have been irregularities, let them occur no more; if fraud has been practiced, render it impossible for a repetition; if exterior influences are active in fomenting and maintaining this internal strife and municipal dissension, permit such to occupy no place on your civic program.

Finally, brethren, remember that "in union there is strength" and victory, but in disunion and discord there is weakness and defeat.

Independence Heights, Texas

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Negro Colony, Little Egypt Evacuated

The News and Courier 8B
Charleston, SC

DALLAS, Tex. (AP)— Tuesday was the day of exodus from Little Egypt.

Wed. 5-16-62

The 200 residents of the all-Negro community which sprang up almost 100 years ago on land deeded to a pair of newly freed slaves, abandon their tumble-down shacks.

50

With the help of 37 moving vans, they'll move to new homes in the Cedar Crest community a few miles away.

Monday night, the villagers gathered in the dilapidated Little Egypt Baptist church, built in 1870, for a prayer meeting. Led by Patriarch William Hill, they prayed for fair weather, fearful that rain would turn the rutted dirt streets into a quagmire and delay the journey.

Behind them, the migrants will leave crude dwellings that never had such luxuries as plumbing or gas.

They'll move into modern houses which cost a minimum of $6500.

Soon after the Little Egypt folk depart, bulldozers will level the abandoned hovels. A fashionable shopping center will rise on the land given to Jeff and Hanna Hill in 1865 when their master freed them from bondage.

In recent years, Little Egypt has been surrounded by a white neighborhood of $25,000 to $40,000 homes.

Adrene Bailey, a realestate saleswoman, handled the transaction for the buyers.

"Deeds of almost a century's time had been badly mixed up. Some houses were on lots belonging to neighbors. The buyers frankly didn't believe that agreements ever could be reached that would please all 200 residents," she said.

Mrs. Bailey said that a trustee of the Little Egypt church, Sarah Robinson, advised other residents to make a deal and avoid a possible suit to condemn the property.

"What you do, do quickly—that's what the Bible says," Mrs. Robinson told the residents.

The Little Egypt Baptist church will go with the residents in their short journey, but in name only. A new church building under construction in Cedar Crest will bear its name. Until the building is completed the members will meet in a tent beside the new church.

SHOPPING CENTER GETS ALL NEGRO COMMUNITY

DALLAS, Texas — (ANP) — The community that grew from a parcel of land given a pari of newly freed slaves in 1865 has been evacuated.

50

Some 200 residents of Little Egypt, a tiny all-Negro community nestled in a northern Dallas area of well-to-do homes, made their exodus from their tumbledown shacks last week to modern homes and a new life.

The migrants left behind them crude dwellings that never had such luxuries as plumbing and gas.

COMPLICATED DEAL

Atlanta Daily World

A complicated year-long real estate deal to clear the land for a new shopping center was climaxed with the mass move.

The 97-year-old community's patriach, William Hill, 87, who had lived on the same spot of ground for the past 76 years, worried about his long unused set of mule harness.

[redacted] P. 8

But he wasn't worried about the future. The cash he received for his property was paying for a new home — with inside plumbing — and would leave him $22,000 cash.

MIXED EMOTIONS

The moving day, filled with mixed emotions, was May 15. Final services were held in the tiny Little Egypt Baptist Church on the the night before. On hand for the mass move the next day were the architects who have designed the new modernistic church that will re place the Cedar Crest section of southern Dallas. The new structure will be the same name. Until the building is completed the congregation will meet in a tent beside the new church. The old building was used almost until the final hour.

Sun. 6-3-62

The villagers gathered in the dilapidated little church, built in 1870, for a prayer meeting led by Hill. They prayed for fair weather, fearful that rain would turn the rutted dirt streets into a quagmire and delay the journey.

With the help of 37 moving vans, the Little Egypt folk will move to new homes in the Cedar Crest community a few miles away. They will move into modern homes which cost a minimum of $6,500.

SHOPPING CENTER COMING

Soon after the villagers are settled, bulldozers will level the abandoned hovels. A fashionable shopping center will rise on the land given to Jeff and Hanna Hill in 1865, when their slave master freed them from bondage.

Atlanta, Georgia

In recent years, Little Egypt has been surrounded by a white neighborhood of $25,000 to $40,000 homes

Adrene Bailey, a real estate saleswoman, handled the transaction for the buyers.

"Deeds of almost a century's time had been badly mixed up. Some houses were on lots belonging to neighbors. The buyers frankly didn't believe that agreements ever could be reached that would please all 200 residents." she said.

Towns and Settlements - 1927

Texas.

70

Race Town In Texas May Dissolve Corporation

Courier 6-25-27

HOUSTON, Tex., June 23.—A vote has been taken as to whether or not Independence Heights, a suburb of Houston, will dissolve corporation as a municipality. The municipality is entirely controlled by Negroes. Its mayor and all of the other officials are Negroes. At present the city is in the hands of a receiver, but it is thought that its financial condition is such that the charter may now be abolished.

Independence Heights

(From over)

at the polls by using Mr. Davis as a smoke screen. They dare not enter the race openly. They know that a vote for Mr. Davis is a vote for Burgess. A vote for Mr. Davis is a vote for Mitchell. A vote for Mr. Davis is a vote for the big interest.

OUR ONLY HOPE

The only way to offset this conspiracy is for the people who work for their living to go to the ballot box and vote for the Hubbard administration. At the ballot box the men and women who work are on an equality with these shrewd politicians. Every father, every mother, every daughter and every son must unite at the ballot box and vote for the candidates for public offices who will be loyal to the masses of the people.

THE PLAIN TRUTH

The plain truth is that Mr. Hubbard has a single ambition in life, and that is to make his administration rank among the best throughout the history of Independence Heights. Vote for Mr. Hubbard, and commissioners, R. C. Cloud, A. M. McCollough.

Mexia Has Richest Colored Colony

Mexia, Texas, Nov. 10—Probably the richest colored colony in the entire world is located here.

Fifty derricks can be counted from the steps of the school house and some of these are over the largest producers of oil in the entire field. An oil well is being erected on the school site and the land beside the church has been leased also for drilling oil. Nearly all of the residents are colored.

(Afro American 11/11/21 Baltimore)

Mexia Texas

(over) Independence Heights

. Towns and Settlements-1921. Texas

Independence Heights = NEWS =

KEEP INDEPENDENCE HEIGHTS OUT OF POLITICTS

Houston Observer 2/26/21

At a Civic Club meeting last Monday night, while matters pertaining to the welfare and best interest of IndependenceHeights were being discussed. Mr. C. M. Mitchell was called upon to express his opinion as to the political situation of the town. He said in short, but positively,—"Independence Heights should be kept out of politics and that cheap politicans and political trickery should not be intolerated." He further said, he had the highest regard and respect for efficiency and preparedness, but it did not take all together professional Smart-Alecks to do business or bring things to pass.' We only need sane, sound and conservative men to hold the reins of the City Government, Men who are willing to lay aside self and selfishness, men who have the interest and welfare of the race in their heart and a righteous object in view.

Such men will be able to devise plans, ways and means to build up our town and their plans will be laid on a foundation which will have for its basic principal, righteousness, fairness and justice to all.

I hope the voters of Independence Heights, will set up and take notice and make selections of such men on election day."

Independence Heights

Houston Observer 3/19/21

Why Hubbard Should be Ellected Mayor of Independence Heights.

MAYOR O. L. HUBBARD

R. C. CLOUD,
Street and Bridre Commissioner

A. M. McCULLOUGH,
Water Commissioner

Because he has served the people of Independence Heights most acceptably. His candidacy appeals to all who appreciate efficiency. He is eminently qualified. Indeed it is as if he had literally gone to school and obtained the degree of "Mayor of Independence Heights." He understands legislation. He comprehends large finance. He is too wise to be fooled, too brave to be scared and too honest to be bought. Not a soul can truthfully breath a word against his integrity.

A SQUARE DEAL FOR ALL

In addition to this Mr. Hubbard stands for principles and policies whose adoption will benefit the great masses of the people. He believes in and has the courage to declare for equal taxation for all and special priviledges for none. He does not approve of a $100.00 valuation for the people and a $60.00 valuation for the big interest.

MORE IMPROVEMENTS

Mr. Hubbard's election will be followed by the completion of street pavement, street lights, water system, fire department and other civic improvements already under way. His election will also be followed by the establishment of various business enterprises. In addition, Mr. Hubbard can be depended on to personally look after the minutest details and successfully master the greatest problems which may arise during his administration.

MR. HUBBARD A LIVE WIRE

Mr. Hubbard has labored unceasingly for the upbuilding of the city. He has been identified with every progressive move the city has made from its organization to the present moment—including the street car line, the organization of the public school the sidewalks, electric lights, bridges, the water system, drainage, the paving of the streets and the organization of the fire department.

MR. DAVIS INCOMPETENT

Mr. Davis acknowledges he could not spell the first word in an ordinance. He further states that if elected, he would not neglect his job to attend to the business of the city. In other words if any body's business was neglected it would be the peoples'. The people want to know who is going to draft the ordinances and attend to the city's business while Mr. Davis is loading his ships?

LETS CAT OUT OF WALLET

The answer is found in Mr. Davis' article in the Texas Freeman of March 12th, in which many false allegations were made against Mr. Hubbard and his administration. In the same article he tells the people that secretary Lilly has resigned and that his resignation has been accepted. The people know that there is not a word of truth in this statement. Mr. Davis further admits that "Ex-mayor George O. Burgess and ex-commissioner C. M. Mitchell, are contributing to Hobbard's discomfort, they pointing out the lines of attack and the spots where Hubbard's administration is weakest." If Burgess and Mitchell can direct his campaign would not they direct his administration?

CANT' FOOL THE PEOPLE

These shrewd politicians think that they can defeat the will of the people who rejected them

(over)

Towns and Settlements - 1928, Texas.

REPORTER

Midland, Tex.

FEB 24 1928

Neg Town is Now Under Construction

Midland, Texas

Erection of cottages and badly needed quarters for negros of Midland has been started in southwest Midland by John and Clarence Scharbauer. Property has been bought just south of the T. & P. tracks, opposite the old M. and N. W. round house.

John Dublin was the architect and designer of the building, including five two room cottages, a twelve room hotel, dance hall, cafe, domino parlor, and other modern structures.

The five houses are now under construction and six more are planned.

The hotel will have shower baths and modern conveniences, and the negro district is to be operated along sanitary lines. Many negroes have wanted to move to Midland but have been unable to find living quarters here, and the providing of these houses will be a great service to them as well as to the public, as the labor is needed badly here.

A grand opening is planned for March 15, at which time the negroes will enjoy a big dance and feast.

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Digest Article Hails All-Negro Town And Founder

The Tattler

34

Jacksonville, Fla.

The all-Negro town of North Heights, Texas, boasting 500 houses, a school, a hospital and six churches, was founded in 1926 by a Negro cowboy whose "determined vision has given his people independence in their own community." The town and its founder are hailed by Laura V. Hamner in The Reader's Digest for June.*

Tattler

Miss Hamner's articles, condensed from St. Louis Post-Dispatch, says that North Heights is a town of homeowners, not renters. Eighty-year old Matthew "Bones" Hooks, its founder, was born of parents who had been slaves. His lifelong dream of an exclusively Negro community was realized after overcoming many obstacles along the way. Well known in Amarillo, largely because of his ability in breaking wild horses

Sat. 5-24-47

Thriving Texas Town Founded by Cowboy, Now 80, Praised

Afro-American Baltimore, Md.

Sat. 5-31-47

NEW YORK — An article in Reader's Digest for June by Laura V. Hamner, condensed from the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, tells of the all-colored town of North Heights, Texas, and its founder, 80-year-old Matthew "Bones" Hooks, who started the community in 1926 when he was a cowboy.

North Heights, with 500 houses, a school, a hospital and six churches, is a town of homeowners, not renters, who enjoy such modern facilities as natural gas for cooking and heating, telephones, a water main, electricity, a store, post office, and a bus line.

Mr. Hooks, well-known in Amarillo, because of his ability in breaking wild horses to the saddle, persuaded the mayor to advance the money to buy a tract of 105 acres for the town. He built a two-story building on the tract with his life savings.

50 1963 SOMERVILLE, (TEXAS) 275 Feb

275

$24,000 Gov't Loan Benefits 37 Negro Families

50

p 2

The Courier

Sat 2-16-63

Pittsburgh Pa

SOMERVILLE, Tex.—Until a few weeks ago, 37 rural Negro families living near here, seldom knew for sure where their next bucket of water was coming from.

Maybe it would come from the cistern if it hadn't gone dry, or in a barrell from town if the truck didn't break down.

Over the years the families longed for enought water to do the wash without skimping, scrub floors without feeling guilty of extravagance, bathe whenever they felt like it, and live without fear of their homes burning down because there was no water for fire fighting.

"All this is now a thing of the past," says Mrs. John R. Reliford, a community leader. Two miles of pipe now connect the 37 homes with the Sommerville water supply, and five hydrants are conveniently spaced throughout the community.

A crew began lying the pipes late last summer after the Farmers Home Administration of the United States Department of Agriculture insured a $24,000 bank loan to the community's incorporated "Sommerville Rural Water Association."

THE ASSOCIATION paid down $1,260 from the sales of stock at $35 a share. Each family purchased a share. The remainder of the bill will be paid through monthly water fees which the association will collect from families.

When the water was turned on last December, one housewife said, "Thank, God victory at last."

It had been a long up-hill effort. When they first built their homes in the little community beyond the boundary of Sommerville, they could count on the rain to keep their cisterns filled.

Then rain became less certain; there were frequent years of drought when the cisterns went dry and the men had to haul water from town.

CONCERNED ABOUT the uncertain water supply which had led some families to move away, the railroad for which the hard working men of the community treated crossties offered them enough pipe to connect their homes with the tow's water system. But engineering and construction costs dashed their hopes.

Then in late 1961, Mrs. Reliford discussed the matter with a Sommerville lawyer who told her about the Farmers Home Administration water system loan program. This led to a conference with the agency's local supervisor, Henry Ivey.

By last June, the 37 families had organized their water association, bought stock in it, and completed arrangements with Farmers Home for the agency to guarantee the $24,000 loan from a local bank.

THIS COMMUNITY was one of more than 100 that obtained such assistance last year through Farmers Home.

In addition to the commuity associations, nearly 1,000 individual farmers also obtained loans for water systems and improved soil and water conservation. The loans guaranteed in 1962 totaled $15,000 million.

73-1944

Courier — Pittsburg, Pa.

AS LATE AS 1919, THERE WERE OVER 60 TOWNS AND COMMUNITIES IN AMERICA SETTLED BY NEGROES AND GOVERNED BY THEM...AMONG THE BEST KNOWN ARE MOUND BAYOU, MISS., BOLEY, OKLA; HOBSON CITY, ALA.; AND ALLENSWORTH, CALIF.... MONROVIA, CALIF. WAS ONCE LARGELY OWNED AND SETTLED BY A NEGRO.... MANY OF THESE NEGRO TOWNS STILL EXIST....

1-22-44

Texas All-Negro Town Has Population Of 900

Daily World — Atlanta, Ga.

7-22-44

KENDLETON, Tex.—(ANP—)Believe it or not, Texas, the Lone Star State, has an all-Negro town with a population of 900 persons, not one of whom is white. This little thriving city is located 50 miles west of Houston, the state's largest and most important business center, and the prosperity on the part of the Negro citizens is of the same kind that is found in Houston, the only difference being in the volume of business rather than in the degree and kind.

The transportatin facilities are supplied by the Southern Pacific railway system and the Bowen Trailway Bus lines. Altogether there are six stores in this Negro town. They all sell groceries. The owners are A. B. Guess, A. Z. Kazee, Miss Alice Martin, Rudolph Braxton and Hilliard Jackson. They are "general merchandise" stores, supplying the rich and large farming area which centers around Kendelton, Beasley and Wharton.

7-22-44

Rudolph Braxton, in addition to operating a general merchandise store, also serves as postmaster, a position he has held 18 years, according to information given this correspondent. The Kendelton post office does all kind of post office business and transacts everything that is transacted in the larger and more metropolitan centers. Braxton was born and reared here and comes of one of the most widely known and aristocratic families of the southwest.

7-22-44

Many Negroes of the immediate area own large farms — really ranches. In addition to farm products large herds of thoroughbred and registered cattle are raised. Kendelton has two all-Negro schools; the Powell Point Training school with a faculty of 13, Prof. T. B. Mitchell, principal; and the Kendelton Elementary school, Prof. H. M. Moore, principal with a faculty of three. The high school enrolment exceeds 200. "The people here are so law abiding that we don't require the service of police, and we don't have any," said an informant.

Wells Are Pro-Rated In Fort Benn County

Atlanta - World

Atlanta, Ga

1 10 39

THOMPSONS, Tex.,—(ANP)—There is a saying in this section of the country where black gold in the form of crude oil gushes forth that oil and farming do not go well together. As soon as the average family strikes oil, they forget all about the prosaic pursuit of tilling the soil. But automobiles, fancy furniture, lavish spending and a disregard for the future are apt to be characteristic of the usual beneficiary.

The little community of Thompsons, some fifty miles from Houston, is a striking exception to this rule. A dozen farmers live in this community, owning anywhere from fifty to one hundred acres each. When oil was found, it was pro-rated among the group, some getting one well, some lucky enough to have three

CLUNG TO SOIL

These farmers club to the soil despite the rigors of the depression and the low estate to which cotton fell. They were having a hard time of it, many of the small owners being in debt. The discovery of oil proved a blessing, but it did not turn their heads. Every one of the families in Thompsons continued to farm.

The case of Henry Riggins is typical. He had fifty-seven acres when oil came in 1932. He knew that the bonanza days were over. Wells are permitted only so much production per day now, and the income is modest compared to what it was in the boom days of 25 years ago. Riggins' one eighth allotment is about 320 barrels a month which gives him roughly about $300 a month clear. He gets subsidy and soil conservation checks under the AAA program.

He built a nice modern bungalow, pretty but not extravagant. He kept right on farming, in fact, his cotton field runs right up to within ten feet of his well. When southern district agent J. S. Williams, county agent A. E. Adams and home demonstration agent Mrs. L. B. Austin visited him last Thursday, they found a group of neighbors gathered around to help him butcher three hogs, weighing anywhere from 175 to 200 pounds. The men, taught long ago by the agricultural extension agent, had killed, scraped and cut the hogs. The women were busy grinding sausage, preparing hams for smoking, loin roast and pork chops for canning, hog head cheese, pickled pigs feet, liver sausage and chitterlings. It was a brave sight to two 4-H Club boys running errands and learning the skills.

Atlanta World

Atlanta, Ga

1-10-39

HOME MODERN

The home is modern, running water, nice furniture, not gaudy but of good quality. Mrs. Riggins invited the group to dinner, and this is what she served (everything on the table but the flour from which the biscuits were made having raised right on that farm): spare-ribs, cor,n Irish potatoes, sweet potatoes, peas, corn bread cucumber pickles, butter sweet milk and buttermilk. The oil is just incidental with the Riggins family. They would make it without oil.

"There are 1.611 colored farmers living on places in Fort Benn County," said agent Adams. "About 400 are owners and the rest tenants and sharecroppers. Many of the latter do very well, while some who are thriftless have little beyond their living at the end of the year."

Particularly striking was the large amount of meat packed in the community. It is too warm for curing successfully in the early winter so the community has arranged with a cold storage house at Rosenberg, Texas twenty miles away, for a large room where the meat is placed until cured and ready for

Thompsons, Texas

Towns and Settlements-1929

Virginia.

Almagro, Virginia

BEGINS 31ST YEAR AS VIRGINIA POSTMASTER

DANVILLE, Va, July 11. —Wm A. Betts has been appointed postmaster of the Race settlement of Almagro. The postmastership has been held by a member of the Betts family for almost 50 years. Betts held it for 30 years and then passed it to his son, Gus, who now has passed it back to his father.

Some 2,000 Race citizens are served by the Almagro postoffice and the salary is paid to the postmaster by percentage on stamp cancellation. Betts accepted the office because he heard the office would be discontinued unless he did

St. Louis Argus
7-12-29
St. Louis
Mo.

Newport News, Va. Press
May 14, 1939

CITY TERRIFIED BY BLOODFIELD IN 1890'S

Negro Settlement East of Town Seen 'Africa in Miniature.'

Not all residents today of Newport News are familiar with the designations given the sections hereabout during the time when the city was springing from an infant into a thriving community, which was not done without "its growing pains." Nevertheless, Bloodfield was one section that the oldsters recall and an account of that area, appearing in a Daily Press of the '90s will recall to them some of the things concerning that area. For instance:

"A Study in Shadows" is the heading on the account. The sub-head says, "Bird's Eye View of Bloodfield in Old Free State."

And here's the story:

"One of the most unique and interesting spots on the face of the globe is Ivy avenue, appropriately christened by informal genius 'Bloodfield,' now a very aggressive part of the Old Free State of Warwick, but some of these days, very soon, perhaps, to become an integral section of Newport News.

"This city for a number of years has suffered without murmuring the numerous disadvantages unfortunately afforded by the propinquity of this particular section; but has never derived any benefit from the relation.

Population Uncertain

"Bloodfield lies southeast of the city about a mile from the courthouse. It consists of one long avenue lined on either side by buildings of various kinds, bound on the west by a church and on the east by the water, neither of which articles is much in demand in that neighborhood.

"The population of the place is variously estimated at from 1,500 to 5,000.

"There has never been a means [illegible]vited of taking the correct census of the place. A census taker or a directory man would probably be universally mistaken for a tax collector and shunned accordingly. Those who have no taxes to pay, seriously object, in a majority of cases, to having their names registered, particularly in an official way.

"But should the unfortunate taker of the census succeed in chasing his quarry to lair; he would found it a harder job discovering the inhabitants than Columbus had when he discovered America.

"The houses are fearfully and wonderfully made. All of them are crowded to the street. It is said that as many as a hundred sleep in one of these houses, which normally would accommodate not more than a score. They sleep everywhere but in bath tubs. They sleep in shifts Part of them woo a restless slumber during the day while the other half is making the night hideous The converse of the proposition is, of course, true. Generally speaking these people do not retire. Many of them do not go to bed. They all go to sleep at some time or another; where and how are details that do not matter much to the average denizen of the avenue.

Population Largely Negro

"The population, as may be inferred, is composed chiefly of Negroes.

"Bloodfield is darkest Africa in miniature, touched up by the cunning hand of modern American vice until its evil points are accentuated most painfully. The good that men do lives after them. The evil is of't interred with their bones.

Shakespeare would have written it that way had he lived in Bloodfield instead of Stratford-on-Avon. "A Nigger gits an idea in his head that he can live without working; that's the reason so many of them are in hell or the penitentiary," remarked a philosophical tonsorialist to his colleague on the next chair to him the other day as the latter announced his intentions of starting out on the broad and flowery road to ruin.

"This is certainly a reason why so many of them are in Bloodfield.

"Life there is one giddy round of dice throwing, chuck-a-luck and other kinds of luck, card playing, dancing, drinking, cake-walking, and more or less doubtful so-called amusements There is little distinction of sex and less of morals. 'A prophet is not without honor, save in his own country.' Spell it 'profit' in Bloodfield and reverse axiom.

Vice Has Loose Rein

"Vice has had a loose rein on Ivy avenue for a long time. Disease has progressed there unchecked, save when the city stepped into the breach. The time has come for the tightening of the reins. The hour has struck, when in the interest of good government, morality and self protection, there is a demand which cannot be slighted, for the incorporation of Ivy avenue, that it may be properly policed; that the violators of the law of decency and statute may be brought to book: that its filth may be annihilated and something like a sanitary regime may be established.

"Bloodfield is nominally under a form of government but conditions are such that little is accomplished. As Robert Browning put it— . . . 'Contrast , the petty done; the undone vast.'

"There it is in a nut shell. The grist mills are constantly grinding, but the supply has never diminished, and oft times, the grist is not exceedingly fine.

Elaborate Police System

"And yet, there is a somewhat elaborate judicial and police system in operation. There is a chief of police, Capt. C. J. Phillips, and two patrolmen, Officers J. M. Perry and L. K Morgan.

"There are two deputy sheriffs John A. Williamson and J. H. Young There is one constable, C. B. Edwards.

"There are three justices of the peace, Squires Henry F. Jones, A. C Pulliam and C. H. Robinson.

"This legal machinery is kept busy all day and generally most of the night. But it hasn't made any impression. No article about Bloodfield would be complete without an allusion to the famous 'Lucy Coleman.' This is the sobriquet given the lockup in which the many prisoners captured in the place are incarcerated pending their release, or consignment to jail or penitentiary.

"It is an unpretentious looking shack, which received its name from the fact that its first unfortunate occupant was one Lucy Coleman. Lucy has probably gone to her reward, however, it may be, but her name has been, if not immortalized, at least eventualized."

Bloodfield, Va
Section of Newport News

Towns — 1922. Virginia.

UNIMPROVED VIRGINIA FARM LAND SOLD AS A SUBURB OF WASHINGTON THRUOUT SOUTH

4/22/22

Washington Tribune

For selling unimproved farm land near Nauck, Va., in lots of 25x100 feet, for $150 to $400, to the colored people of the Southern States, a group of white men were exposed by Attorney Mortimer M. Harris, while in Montgomery Ala., last week. The place is advertised, in very cleverly written ads, as Douglass Park, and according to a page advertisement, and a front page article, which appeared in the "Birmingham Reporter" of March 4th, 1922, anyone would think that "Douglass Park" was in the District of Columbia because there is not a single word that says that it is unimproved farm land in Virginia, or "Douglass Park, Va."

Atorney Harris stopped over in Montgomery, on his return trip from Tuskegee and while visiting one of the city schools, his attention was called, by one of the teachers, to the advertisement of the beautiful "Douglass Park" and he was asked to tell them more about it, since he was from Washington. The ad in the Birmingham Reporter had the picture of the Dunbar and Armstrong High Schools of Washington, the Y. W. C. A. building and the picture of Douglass. Around the picture of the venerable Douglass is this sentence: "Let the great big city of Washington work for you but you must own property to have Washington work for you." "Douglass Park" is prominently featured as "Washington City suburb, in the shadow of the Capitol." Every bit of information in the ad speaks of Washington and its advantages but not a single word, not even the abbreviation of Virginia appears on the page. Mr. Harris told the teacher and those present, that there was no such park in Washington, but that he had heard of the Washington Development Corporation trying to sell some unimproved farm land in Virginia, calling it Douglass Park, and were using the names of prominent colored men as endorsers of the proposition and that he had heard Atty. Wm. L. Houston of Washington say that he was going to sue this corporation for using his name.

To Editor Porter, of the East Tennessee News and editor Adams of the Birmingham Reporter Mr. Harris reaffirmed this statement, which rankled them, for the advertisement is a source of revenue to their papers and the News came out last week with an article denouncing Attorney M. M. Harris for exposing this apparent skin game of these white men to get the money of unsuspecting colored people of the South.

The Tribune representative visited the office of the Washington Development Corporation, on F Street and found B. P. Sandlin, the secretary-treasurer in the office. He stated that the corporation was incorporated in Virginia and that at first they used "dummy directors" but now they were on a more solid footing and that S. H. Thompson, a white man of Bristol, Tenn., is president; that he, Sandlin, a white man, is secretary-treasurer and F. S. Westbrook, a white man of Charlotte, N. C. is vice-president. "We have sold lots in Birmingham, Knoxville, Nashville and Greensboro," said Mr. Sandlin. "We have not tried to put the lots of Douglass Park on the market here, because we have not improved the streets or anything. It is practically a diamond in the rough, so to speak," said the secretary-treasurer.

Mr. Houston's attention was called to Mr. Harris' statement by the white men selling these lots and he gave them a letter which says that he has not instituted a suit against the Washington Development Corporation "nor have I a suit pending or in contemplation against the said Park Association." We are presenting a statement from Mr. Harris, Mr. Houston and Mr. S. M. Dudley. However, Mr. Houston's name appears in the Birmingham paper as an endorser of "Douglass Park."

Mr. Harris' Statement

To the Editor of the Tribune:

In answer to your inquiry of recent **date, relative to an article appearing** in the East Tennessee News on April 13, in which the East Tennessee News quotes me as saying "W. L. Houston is going to sue the Washington Development Corporation for the use of his name without his permission." Permit me to hand you herewith a statement from S. M. Dudley a Lawyer of 615 F St., N. W., and one from W. L. Houston himself. These statements will show to the public that I was warranted in making the statement that "W. L. Houston is going to sue the Washington Development Corp."

With these statements I consider the matter closed.

Very truly yours,
(Signed) MORTIMER M. HARRIS

Mr. Dudley's Statement

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

THIS IS TO CERTIFY, that I was present in Mortimer M. Harris' office, 615 F St., N. W., Washington, D. C., and heard Attorney W. L. Houston make a threat to sue the Washington Development Company for the use of his name without his permission.

At the time I had a copy of the "Birmingham Reporter" containing a full page "ad" by this corporation. I had already taken the matter up with Mr. Houston, as I had just returned from Alabama where the activities of this corporation were being widely advertised and he told me that he could not indorse it and that he intended to bring suit.

(Signed) S. M. DUDLEY

(Part of Atty. Houston's Letter is herewith reproduced)

Mr. Mortimer M. Harris,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Answering your question as to whether I had threatened to institute a suit against the Washington Development Corporation, I beg to say that in the month of Mrach, 1922, my attention was called to a copy of the Birmingham Reporter containing an advertisement of the Washington Development Corporation in which my name appeared in a list of those endorsing Douglass Park.

I stated then that no one had any authority from me to use my name in that connection and I would institute a suit against the corporation if it continued to make such publication without my authority.

* * * * * *

I have never investigated Douglass Park; have never endorsed it and no one is authorized to use my name, stating that I have done so. If anyone claims to the contrary, let him produce my letter of endorsement.

Yours very truly,
(Signed) W. L. HOUSTON

LYONS EX-REGISTER ENDORSES DOUGLASS PARK

Birmingham Reporter

Special to The Reporter.

Washington, D. C., May 2, 1922. Prominent among visitors who have been here for the past week was Col. Judson W. Lyons of Augusta, Ga., former register of the United States Treasury.

5/6/22

Col. Lyons has some cases pending in the court of claims, this being the primary cause of his presence in the capital. He called upon several friends in the Senate and urged that the Dyer anti-lynching bill be passed before adjournment.

Col. Lyons expressed a desire to inspect Douglas Park, Va., the addition for colored people that is on the market, owned by the Washington Development Corporation, of which Hon. Sam H. Thompson of Tennessee is president, and who was also a member of State Board of Education and did so much for the colored schools of this state.

Col. Lyons gives the following observations after inspecting this addition:

"I have seen Douglas Park Addition and have been all over it. It is just across the Potomac from Washington City, not more than ten or fifteen minutes by automobile. The elevation is 150 feet above Capitol Hill and 190 feet above the White House elevation.

"It is difficult to imagine a place from a hygienic standpoint more desirable for a home than Douglas Park. The street cars are easily accessible, running on two sides of the property with convenient stations. The miiltary road adjacent is as smooth as glass.

"To persons who want homes or property in or near the Nation's Capital, I know of no place more worthy or attractive than this beautiful addition.

"This property will enhance in value as time goes by and the population of Washington grows."

Douglass Park, Va.

NEW CITY OF 61,000 RISES IN VIRGINIA

30 Va

BY CARTER JEWEL

HAMPTON, Va.—(ANP)—A new city of 61,000 people was born July 1 in Virginia's most populous Negro section. Fully 22,000 of the new city's residents will be Negroes.

The new city of Hampton will consist of the residents of the old Hampton city, the town of Phoebus and Elizabeth City county.

Residents of the three localities voted last week to consolidate into a city of the first class. The count was 5,497 to 754 with more than half of the area's eligible voters casting ballots. Negro voters, it is estimated, were as much in favor of the consolidation as the whites. There are 11,000 eligible voters in the area.

The merger, carried by every one of the 12 precincts involved, is in line with current developments in the lower Peninsula of Virginia recently a tunnel-bridge connecting Norfolk and Portsmouth was dedicated. Plans are being made for a tunnel to connect Norfolk and Portsmouth with Newport News by crossing the busy and famous Hampton Roads.

This area is one of the most active in a business, social and political sense in the South. The Hampton Roads shipping companies frequently handle more coast wise business than any port on the U. S. shores. The U. S. Government has large military installations in the area, particularly in Norfolk and Portsmouth.

The multi-millionare housing project underway in Norfolk, Va., is one of the largest south of the Mason-Dixon line. About three-fourths of the housing units will be occupied by low income Negro families.

1-29-52

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P. 1

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7-1-52

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The consolidation project gives Virginia two new cities since Warwich county a week earlier voted to incorporate as a city of the first class. This last incorporation becomes effective July 17. The new city will be called Warwich. Virginia will lose two counties with the two new cities and instead of 100, there will be left 98 counties.

New City Born In Va. As 3 Areas Merge

Dat. 7-5-52

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P. 8

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Hampton, Va

Towns—1919

25

NORFOLK VA DISPATCH
MAY 27, 1919

Truxton, Va.

DMIRAL HARRIS GIVES GOOD ADVICE TO THE COLORED RACE

Excellent Addresses Made At Formal Opening of Truxtun Last Sunday

Rear Admiral F. R. Harris, U. S. N., president of the board of control of war activities, in the Hampton Road district, made a most interesting address at the formal opening of the town of Truxtun, his remarks containing excellent advice to the colored race. Admiral Harris said:

Honored Guests and Future Resdinest of Truxtun:

"As a rule I am averse to the fixing of ceremonies of this character on the Lord's day, but it is particularly fitting that this day should be selected for the opening of Truxtun, as I doubt not, that even small community though it be, it will shortly become large and important in the eyes of the world because of its being an experiment, planned as an ideal, industrial negro community inhabited by people of your race and practically run by them under American institution and laws. The Sabbath is particularly appropriate as this experiment is undoubtedly one of the milestones in the difficult path of adversity which your people are to tread until they find their way guided by the hand of the Lord through the wilderness into the light.

THE COLORED RACE

"It has been a mooted question as to whether or not the negro Ethiopian race would have fared better if left undisturbed in their African homes, rather than for so many hundreds and thousands of your people who have been taken away to the United States and sold into slavery. Irrespective of the trials, tribulations and hardships endured by your ancestors in slavery days as compared to the easy going slothfulness of the life under the African sun, history in respect to the development of race clearly indicates that you of Ethiopian origin, if left undisturbed in Africa would have eventually succumbed to the encroachment in that continent of the white races who had benefitted from the advances of an interchange of civilization even as the American Indian has disappeared here. Therefore, we may safely consider that the transplanting of your forebears into the United States was the work of the Almighty, all-providing Providence, foreordaining your mission. That mission being to give you the great favor of growing up and multilying under the American flag with the opportunities for education, how to become good and useful citizens of the great republic, absorbing the lessons of liberty and the difference between liberty and license, and earning the true meaning of democracy which entails both tolerance and humility. Citizenship in our reat republic is a heritage which you ow share with those of the white race, involving not only the privileges and enjoyment of its institutions and the protection it affords your lives and property but entails the responsibility of self government and the greatest lesson that our American democracy teaches its children, which ; that the government is that "of the people, by the people and for the people, and it is no better than the people wil it to be, and as bad as they want it to be.

CRITICISE THEMSELVES

We all hear many complaints of the inadequacy, inefficiency, or stuidity of the government- of this great country and much gratuitous advice as to how it might be improved, the critics seldom realizing that they are criticizing themselves, and that improvement only comes through the active participation and effort of each individual citizen of the United States in a lifelong eneavor to improve things and to make them better. The trouble is too frequently that every man feels that his efforts would be such a small mite that it would do no good so that e does not try; naturally if every man of the thousands and thousands elieved in this way nothing good of asting would be accomplished, but n the other hand if every man had confidence and faith in his little mite honestly and trustfully, irrespective of the visible effort, just as matter of duty and in return for the benefits which we live under, you cannot doubt but that the result would soon be apparent.

The performance of this little mite does not, of course, mean an active participation in the Federal government at Washington, but each man o turn to what is at hand in his state, city, county, town or community, if it is no more than being a good citizen, law abiding and helpful in his small way and at his own little fireside.

PERSONAL LIBERTY

We Americans know when we are guaranteed personal liberty and the opportunity for the enjoyment and happiness that this is and must be restricted so that in the pursuit of liberty and happiness we do not encroach upon or destroy the liberty and happiness of others. You will agree with me that the man who felt that it was his right to sing and be boisterous all night long because he was a free citizen of this republic, and because it made him happy to do so would not have a right to do this if he were living in the same house or close to other people where his singing and noise kept them awake and made them in turn unhappy.

All of us who are citizens of this great republic realize the necessity for laws and restraint and they are, and should be, for the greatest good to the greatest number. This is the lesson of liberty as against license. This is what people know and understand who have been brought up under the American flag, and what people often do not understand who have lived and grown up under the flag of some autocracy so that often when this autocratic restraint is removed they are incapable immediately of self government because they have had no lesson and understanding of its true intent and meaning so that I think the transplanting of so many hundreds of thousands of your race in the United States gave you all a mission to perform to your race and that was the mission by example that your people were and are capable, with proper opportunities, for self government, orderly lives and respect for the laws which mean a respect for the liberties and happiness of your neighbors.

NEGRO SELF GOVERNMENT

There are many who, when the question of the ability of the negro race to govern themselves is brought up, point to the failures that your people have made in the past and are making. I might mention as an example the negro Haitian republic. There are other notable examples that it is unnecessary to mention. I do not think that such references do you justice, for I think we have many examples now of white races where autochatric or monarchial restraint have been suddenly removed, misunderstanding liberty and assuming it meant license. The negroes of the United States would not so misunderstand and that is why I state that Truxtun is one of the milestones in your march of progress because it will give you in a small way the chance to demonstrate that in this community of negro people you can conduct your affairs peacefully and be law abiding and make it a model settlement, clean and orderly. The opportunity that will undoubtedly come to you later on to purchase these pretty little homes that you are to live in, affords the means by which you can demonstrate your industry in working, earning and frugally saving and setting by for the rainy day.

EXPERIMENTAL SETTLEMENT

It is particularly a cause of satisfaction that this experimental settlement, for such it is, should be located in the state of Virginia in the South because in the United States the bulk of your people live in the South, and must live with the southern white people, and it is undoubtedly here that you should demonstrate and actually prove that you have all of those qualities necessary to good American citizenship.

I did not mean to preach a sermon, but perhaps it is just as well that we should give some regard to the solemn character of this occasion because what you make of Truxtun, you handful of Navy Yard workers, will accrue to the credit or discredit of the entire negro race in the south. The little parcels of land, and the pretty little houses, well built, with all their modern sanitary devices are as good in their modest way as anything that can be found in Portsmouth or Norfolk. The United States through the Housing Corporation has seen to this. It has done all it could do. It has provided all of the physical attributes necessary to a new township or community; the intangible and more important attributes remain to be contributed by you, the residents of Truxtun; to keep it clean, orderly, to see that it is well run and managed, to make the little houses real homes, and the families residing in them happy families and the heads of those families faithful, industrious, frugal workers of the great working world. If you do all this, little Truxtun may well be known throughout Virginia, the South, on the great American republic, and throughout the entire world, and that will do more good for the negro race than all the speeches and pleadings of any of your gifted eloquent orators.

Residents of Truxtun you have a great opportunity and a great work to perform.

NORFOLK VA VIRGINIAN [illegible]
MAY 26, 1919

NEW COMMUNITY OF TRUXTUN IS NOW A REALITY

Community Centre Formally Opened With Appropriate Exercises

PROMINENT OFFICIALS ON SPEAKER'S LIST

Truxtun, the new community center exclusively for colored residents, established on the outskirts of the city, was formally opened yesterday afternoon with appropriate exercises, which began at 2 o'clock. The weather, in spite of the fact that it was decidedly inclement in the forenoon, appeared not to interfere with the program to a great extent. A large crowd of probably 5,000 persons attended the exercises, which were interesting throughout. They were presided over by W. H. Jennings.

Several speakers were on the program, all of whom made timely remarks in connection with the formal opening of the village, for the settlement embraced within the Truxtun section is comprised of 200 or more houses of the most modern type, and is, in reality, a community center.

Music was furnished at the event by the Naval Post band.

Housing Officials Here

Officials of the United States Housing corporation, under which the village was constructed as a war emergency, were present at the exercises, and were on the program as speakers.

L. K. Sherman, president of the housing corporation, Washington, in his address to the assemblage, told of the need of better housing for workers, and of the efforts of the housing corporation to meet that requirement. His remarks were enthusiastically greeted.

Rear Admiral F. R. Harris, U. S. N., president of the board of control of war activities, in the Hampton Roads district, referred, in his address, to the history of housing, and spoke of the expectation of the government that those who are permitted to occupy houses in the new community will cultivate a desire to bring home life to a higher plane. A house does not make a home, he said, telling his auditors that they should strive to make their homes happy and contented, and in order to do so must appreciate the opportunities that have been afforded to bring their home life to a higher standard.

Capt. B. F. Hutchison, U. S. N., commandant of the navy yard, in this city, promised the hearty cooperation of the naval authorities here in promoting the interests of the new community, as far as possible.

Refers To Handicap

Karl F. Phillips, of the bureau of negro economics, of the United States department of labor, was the last speaker. He delivered an impressive talk on negro housing accommodations, and told of the handicaps under which negro workers have labored with inadequate and improper housing facilities. He feels, he said, that Truxtun, with its model buildings, will serve to bring the housing problem to a higher plane here, cultivating a demand on the part of the negroes for a better class of dwellings, which will, in themselves, promote contentment, and bring the negro to realize that better home life reflects itself in a better class of labor.

Town Manager Cover, of Truxtun, was host to the visiting officials and others.

Mrs. Truxtun, widow of Admiral Truxtun, in whose honor the community was named, attended the exercises, and was an interested listener to all that was said by the speakers.

Village Is A Model

In the creation of the Truxtun project a model village has been established, one that will, it is believed by officials of the housing corporation, and those residing here interested in negro economics, be much copied. Already it has attracted a great deal of attention, and has been given considerable publicity by reason of its facilities for caring for householders and the general planning of the project, which is calculated, it is stated, to make it a model of its kind.

In connection with the exercises yesterday local committees of colored residents looked after the transfer of guests to and from the community center, automobiles being provided for that purpose.

Truxton, Va.

~~NEGRO WOULD~~ UPLIFT RACE BY FARMING

KANSAS CITY MO JOURNAL
JULY 27, 1919

H. P. Ewing Plans to End Ignorance With Big Arkansas Colonization Scheme.

"If I could just pound into the negro's head the difference between racial distinction and prejudice I would have overcome a mountain," says H. P. Ewing, a negro, and former Kaw Valley "potato king" and Kansas City social worker, who now is promoting, together with L. H. Miles, a colonization scheme to sell 35,000 acres of Arkansas land to negroes. Mr. Ewing has the backing of Phil R. Toll, the lumber man, in his newest enterprise.

Ewing is a man of stamina, of ambition and of visions who sees a future for the black man if he can be educated along the right lines. His stamina is shown in his name, "potato king." Ewing at one time had more than 1,000 acres of potatoes on Kaw Valley land, and in 1896 he shipped 206 cars of "spuds," the product of his farm at Loring, twenty miles west of Kansas City. His ambition was shown in his five years of active work in trying to stamp out vice among negroes of Kansas City. In this his efforts were rewarded with success, for he was responsible for the closing of many of the most notorious of negro dives and in cutting down vice in general among the negroes.

This negro's vision is evident in his plans for the future as well as in his accomplishment of the past. He has dedicated his life to the uplift of his own people out of the mire of ignorance, immorality and vice to a plane of education, morality and better living conditions.

"I want the negro to go back to the farm," said Ewing, "because I know that once I get him away from the vice of the city and to understand the advantages of a rural life that I will have done him a good deed and have started him on the upward climb." The promoter explained that Mr. Tull, an acquaintance of twenty-five years, had taken note of the sincerity with which he was working and because of this had given him support and assistance in his newest idea.

It is Twing's plan to split the 35,000 acres of cleared and timber lands in the Yell and Perry valleys of Arkansas into tracts of 40 to 100 acres, and to sell these tracts to negroes only, at prices varying from $10 to $25 an acre. In this he is being assisted by L. H. Miles, president of the General Finance and Development Company.

A school, erected from logs hewed from the native timber, will be erected for the purpose of instructing the negro in the better agricultural methods of the present day so that he may go back to his land and reap the profits of a better farming knowledge.

The land, none of which is more than three miles from a railroad, according to Ewing, is said to be very productive. There is said to be enough timber on the land to pay for the price of the tracts if it is cut and marketed. If Ewing can make negroes realize the opportunity that is being offered he anticipates no trouble in disposing of all of the land by the latter part of December.

When asked if he intended to induce the negroes of Kansas City to take up these lands, Ewing replied negatively. He is of the opinion that Kansas City's negro population are "Kansas City spoiled" and would not be easily induced to break away from the gay life and the bright lights.

With an ever predominating enthusiasm Ewing is tackling a big task for the betterment of his race. He knows that he is going to meet obstacles, in fact he has met them.

"I have run into many stone walls in all of my work," he said, "but I do not let those discourage me. When I find one I can't go through or knock down I manage in some way to get over it. If I became discouraged over every obstacle I met I would not get very far and as a result would be of little benefit to that race so in need of help."

PLAN NEGRO COLONY ON MEXICAN BORDER

ST LOUIS MO POST DISPATCH
AUGUST 10 1919

Free Will M. E. Church to Promote New Free State to Solve Race Problems.

Plans for the colonization of American negroes in a new free state to be set up on the Mexican border said to have the support of the 200,000 members of the race who comprise the Free Will M. E. Church will be set in motion at the annual convention and conference of the church, to be held in St. Louis Aug. 12 to 22. The adoption of the colonization program, according to a statement made yesterday by Dr. M. M. Madden of Oklahoma City, a delegate to the convention, will eliminate entirely the race question from the list of problems facing the United States.

"You cannot mix oil and water, nor an inferior race with a superior," Dr. Madden said. "Our movement is nation-wide, and has the support, not only of the 200,000 members of our congregation, but also of hundreds of thousands of independent members of both races throughout the country. Elimination of race trouble would not be the only advantage of the plan. Our state would act as a buffer between the United States and Mexico. Our people would be given rights guaranteed, but not fulfilled, by the Thirteenth, Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments to the Constitution of the United States."

Dr. Madden's plan is that the new state be governed upon a modified territorial principle. Laws shall be made by the negro citizens of the state, but shall be subject to veto by the United States Government. Except for this veto, however, the colony shall be entirely self-governing, and relations with the United States shall be by treaty. The state shall consist of 1000 square miles of territory—500 on nthe American side of the Rio Grande River and 500 on the Mexican side. The United States shall buy the American territory from the individual citizens, and the Mexican territory from the Mexican Government. Negro property in the United States shall be appraised and bought up by the Government, but emigration shall not be compulsory.

Dr. Madden declared yesterday that members of his race will flock into the negro state more rapidly than they can be colonized. "The United States in a few years would be as free of negroes as England and France are," he said. A delegation from the church, Dr. Madden said, will go before Congress and the President, not later than Sept. 12, to suggest the formation of the office of representatives of the negro race to work out details of the plan in conjunction with Government officials.

The campaign at the convention here will be one of agitation and education. Sessions of the conference are to be held at the Free Will M. E. Church at Twenty-third and Adams streets. A tent tabernacle has been erected on the church property to accommodate the delegates and visitors. During the convention Dr. Madden will speak to an audience of both races at the Coliseum.

The "News Traveller" Introduces a Blended Race

11-20-19.

Loyalty, Prosperity, Industry and Success Is One of America's Melting Pots.

The New York News

Away back in Revolutionary Days four Hessian soldiers deserted the English Army, then occupying New York, and with two colored women enticed from their masters, rowed up the Hudson river to a point near Nyack. To avoid the American Army, camped about Yonkers and Fort Washington, they kept near the Jersey shore. When they disembarked they struck out for the mountains, finally settling upon what is known as the Hovenkopf peak of the Ramapo Mountains, partly in New York and partly in New Jersey, as now bounded. Then it it was in a sparsly settled wilderness. Enroute the companionship of two Indian maidens was obtained, by either romantic methods or by more drastic measures. History is not precise upon this point. The character of the episode, whose central figures were army deserters, served to isolate these folks in their mountain homes and in the hundred and thirty years subsequent a sense of clanishness has been more or less prevalent. Locally the descendants are known as "Jacks and Whites." The orignal family names, De Groat, Van Dunk, Mann and De Freese, predominate among the several hundred of these people now scattered about the territory. Hilbun N. Y., contains the largest community of these people.

About twelve years ago the Presbyterian Church initiated work among them and placed Rev. Gunner, of Alabama, in charge of a mission. His persistent efforts supplemented by a personal interest bestowed by the artist, Frank Eaton, of Rural Views fame, has had fruition in a development that has been much emphasized by the past five years of war time conditions.

Fourteen of these people saw service, one paying the supreme secrifice and five returning wounded. The others bringing home to their elders a world-wide viewpoint that broke the shell of century-old clanishness, so weakened by Rev. Gunner's constant teachings that today Hilbun offers a picture of race interest and activity worthy of emulation.

The colored section of Hilbun, small as it is, consists mostly of homes owned by their occupants, who know modern conveniences and whose mental perspective is best described in the Community Club, originated by the Reverend, where young men may be seen every night reading the best literature of both races with an interest that is not assumed.

A colored grocer serves their needs, as does an auto express operated by Mr. Solomon.

The Ramapo Iron Works finds the men desirable employes, and 60 per cent of its payroll is colored.

The Rockland Hat Co. utilizes upon equal terms both colored and white girls, and it is indeed a callous person who does not appreciate the appearance of our girls as they are seen going to and from work. Every shade and type is represented and one is impressed with the health and vigor of these folks.

The scenic attractions of the vicinity justify visiting Hillbun, and if one appreciates country hospitality or a demonstration of race evolution the "News Traveller" commends to you a visit to the Ramapo Mountain village of Suffern. If you don't visit then keep your ear attuned to hear what happens since this little giant community has realized its possibilities.

ROBBINS, ILL. IDEAL NEGRO VILLAGE

The Journal

Proves Ability Of Race Members To Govern Themselves When Left Alone

And Guide

Chicago, Nov. 26.—"Let the colored people have transportation and housing and they are going to segregate themselves naturally. Help them get situated right and they'll work it out by themselves."

This is the advice of the only Negro mayor among the municipalities of Cook county, Thomas J. Kellar, mayor of the village of Robbins, with a population close to 1,000. Ninety-eight per cent of the population is colored. They have elections, taxes, town hall, schools, special assessments and all the white man's civic appurtenances. The chief boundaries of the village of Robbins are the Rock Island railroad and Sacramento avenue on the west, 135th street on the north, 143rd street on the South. Near by is the village of Posen, with 90 per cent of its population Polish.

11-29-19.

"Our people in Robbins are people mostly that get tired of the white fights and the crowded city," said Mayor Kellar. "They came out here to raise chickens, make gardens and be a little more free. There was quite an influx of younger people in the last few months, enough so that we organized company L of the Chicago guards. I've been here eight years. I used to be able to sit down and name everybody in the village, but now there's a lot of people I don't know at all."

"How many arrests for gambling last year," was asked.

"Nobody ever was arrested in Robbins for gambling. They are that kind here."

"And the churches."

"We have the Methodist and Baptist, several cults of Holy Rollers and the Church of God, and others, that meet in store rooms and cottages. Ask me about schools, that is our worst feature. We have only one school in the village. It has half day sessions for each child. The directors are figuring on a portable school soon.

"The village was incorporated in 1917. It has 400 men and women voters. It covers about two square miles. We need a moving picture theatre and other attractions for the young pople. Our women's club is coming well and is affiliated with the Chicago Federation of Woman's Clubs.

"There should be less charity and more responsibility for the colored man. He should be made to do his part. Let him get to the land; let him have the transportation and housing and he is going where his own are.

"It would surprise you to see how they lift up their heads when they are taking part in their government in their own town. We don't discriminate, you understand. Anybody can come in. We are learning what it is to have community responsibility. We need drainage. But some of our citizens don't want to undertake the cost. Eventually, they will come to it."

Charles C. Banks, colored laborer, is village clerk. Trustees are: R. Flowers, electrical worker; R. H. Bryant, laborer; George Winburn, grocer; Jerry Taylor, janitor; Leroy P. Thomas, real estate dealer; Mayor Kellar is a clerk for the board of assessors at the county building. The village was built on subdivisions laid out by Eugene S. Robbins, a white man who has a large tract in this district.

COLORED COLONY

37,000 ACRES OF WELL-TIMBERED LAND

[illegible]

Allport, Ark., May 2[illegible].—The Allport Colony and Industrial Association was organized here to-day and will take over 37,000 acres of land, most of it well-timbered. The land is in Lonoke, Jefferson and Arkansas counties, and will be one of the largest Colored colonies in the United States. More than 100 families will move on to the land during the next year and two mills are now cutting timber, the most of which is being shipped to Detroit, Mich., to be used in the making of autos. The town will be laid out one mile long and arrangements are being made for a big barbecue on July 4. Governor Brough and other speakers have been invited to deliver addresses on that date. A large three-storey school building will be erected in the park near the town and will cost about $15,000. A dormitory will also be built for boys and girls. A rocking chair was made at the Allport Industrial School by the students and teachers and sent to President Wilson. It was quarter-sawed oak, with golden finishing. President Wilson wrote a letter of thanks. The following citizens have made out incorporation papers: J. W. Sims, L. W. Hill, R. Amos, F. W. Bragg, E. M. Richardson, and W. W. Williamson, all of Lonoke county, and Dr. J. A. Edmondson, of Athens, Tex.

3-11-19

JONES ELECTED MAYOR

The Chicago Defender

St. Louis, Mo., April 25.—Hon. C. E. Jones, in a spirited election last week at Brooklyn, Ill., a suburb across the river, defeated Mayor James H. Thomas by a majority of 14 votes last week. Nine hundred and thirty-nine votes were cast. Mayor Thomas had served two terms. The trustees elected were Richard Gaston, Clifton Patton and William Wallace. It will be remembered that the city of Brooklyn is the only real Negro town from mayor to office boy in the great state of Illinois.

4-26-19

Plan Negro Colony on Mexican Border -
Hilbun Community, N. Y. State
Robbins, Ill.
Allport, Ark.
Brooklyn, Ill.

Towns and Settlements - 1921.

Virginia

TRUXTUN MAY BE CEDED TO COMMONWEALTH WITH CRADOCK

Town Has Not Met With Fate of Neighbor

IS WELL GOVERNED

Norfolk Journal

Occupied Only by Race People; Was Built by Government

2-5-21.

The ceding of Truxtun back to the State of Virginia along with Cradock, will be provided in the bill introduced by Senator Swanson Thursday and referred to the committee on public grounds and buildings to cede Cradock back to the Commonwealth, if the request of Portsmouth city officials is heeded.

A telegram was sent to Senator Swanson requesting that the ceding back to the Commonwealth of Truxtun be incorporated in the bill, which, it is hoped, can be passed this session of Congress as a rider on some appropriation bill.

Should Congress take action ceding the town of Truxtun back to the State of Virginia it would solve the riddle of having a town within a town, it is pointed out, for Truxtun lies entirely within the corporate limits of the city of Portsmouth.

The settlement has not met with the difficulties that Cradock has, although its status is exactly the same, it is said. In Truxtun, municipal affairs are administered by a city manager, who also is responsible for the operation of the public utilities patterned after those of Cradock.

There has been no dissatisfaction expressed by the people of Truxtun as to their status as citizens of a "town within a town" and consequently, it is pointed out, few people are familiar with the fact that the citizens of Truxtun have met and overcome the same obstacles that have confronted the people of Cradock.

Lincoln Park Will Be Queen Of Norfolk Colored Suburbs

Ideal Section for Colored People Will Provide Real Home Life Away From Crowded City Tenements That Will Be a Blessing To Hundreds Who Will Avail Themselves of Opportunity to Secure Homes.

Journal & Guide 3/19/21

"Lincoln Park will be queen of Norfolk Colored suburbs," said Messrs. Harper and Bartlett, who have their office at No. 5 Monticello Arcade, and who are agents for this attractive property, located on the Ocean View car line, within fifteen minutes' ride of city. They took the representative out for an inspection of the property, that he might see its situation and the improvements being made thereon. The property is now being cleared, streets graded and preparations being made for the building of homes thereon to cost between three and four thousand dollars each—not the usual country shanty with its uncanny appearance and condition—but real, cozy, attractive homes, where the most fastidious could enjoy.

The smallest lot in Lincoln Park will be 50 x 150 feet, enough land upon which to have a home, raise three crops of vegetables a year, have chickens, a pig and plenty of room for pets and for the children to romp and play, and, too, have city conveniences. A water line, with eighty pounds pressure, is adjacent the property, the Virginia Railway & Power Company's power line runs immediately through the property, which will provide city water and electric lights. Added to this is a fifteen-minute car service to and from the city. The freight service of the Ocean View line makes it convenient for those making heavy purchases in the city to have their freight transported at ten cents per one hundred ponds. One man, who has already purchased his lot and has now taken up his abode in Oakwood, adjacent to the property, preparatory to building his home, says he finds it more convenient to get to and from his work in the city than when he lived in Lindenwood.

For vehicle service the roads leading to and from Lincoln Park are superb. The Sewalls Point road, which leads directly from the property, is to be paved in the very near future, appropriation for the same having already been made by the county fathers, and plans are already under way for the paving of the Little Creek road, which runs through the property. Farmers of Princess Anne county are already taking advantage of the new avenue recently cut through the property as a main thoroughfare to the city.

A man, in making a home for his family, seeks, first of all, wholesome environments. The surrounding environments are ideal at Lincoln Park. One of the best county schools, built of brick and with an efficient corps of teachers, is located within a stone's throw of the property. Three churches are just as near as the school and good stores are within a few minutes' walk. Lincoln Park will provide, however, good business locations, as the hundreds of residents there will have to be provided with all the necessities of life. There will be opportunity for grocery stores and mercantile establishments of all kinds, for it is proposed to make Lincoln Park a little city within itself—a regular self-sustaining Colored town, free from the influences of jim-crowism, segregation and all manner of proscription, where those who are now oppressed can bask in the sunshine of political and economic freedom.

Homes On Easy Terms

Messrs. Harper and Bartlett have arranged to finance the building of comfortable homes at Lincoln Park on rent-like terms. The terms are so easy that any person earning a normal salary may purchase and pay for his home. Just a few dollars more than rent per month and within a few years he will have something more than mere rent receipts to show for his expenditure. Lincoln Park offers a wonderful opportunity to the home seeker.

Truxton

Truxtun, Va-

Lincoln Park, Va.

Towns and Settlements-1924. Virginia.

59

Truxton, Built By Government During The War is Awarded to Highest Bidders Who Prove to be Negro Bankers. Cash Deal Alleged to Involve $141,000

Dallas Express

Washington, D. C., Jan. 19—History was made here this week when a group of race financiers headed by W. H. C. Brown, investment banker of Newport News, Va., and Washington, D. C.; Dr. A. J. Strong, treasurer of Metropolitan Bank of Norfolk, Va., one of the race's largest banks, and Dr. Norman Lassiter, prominent dentist and capitalist of Newport News, Va., from the Tidewater section of Virginia, purchased through sealed bids, the entire town of Truxtum, Va. While the exact amount paid for this town could not be learned, it was hinted that the price was around $141,000.

Truxtun was owned by the U. S. Government and was operated thru the U. S. Housing Corporation. It was built by the Government during the war to house the Colored workers at the Navy Yard at Portsmouth, Va.

The government in line with its policy of getting rid of its wartime activities ordered the town for sale. Sealed bids were received at the office of the Housing Corporation here Wednesday, January 2nd. A number of bidders (mostly white) from Norfolk, Portsmouth and the Tidewater section presented their bids. At the time of opening the bids it was found [illegible] only race bidders had toppe[illegible]ist, much to the surprise of [illegible]ite bidders who did not entertai[illegible] slightest idea that Negroes had enough money (especially since it was a cash proposition) to outbid them.

When the bidders assembled Wednesday afternoon to hear the report, the Housing Corporation Committee announced that race men had been awarded the property as the highest bidders.

1-19-24

Truxtun, Va., was built by the Government exclusively for Negro workers. It is located just over the city line of Portsmouth, Va., within one mile of the U. S. Navy Yard. It is served by the Portsmouth electric line; railroad facilities are furnished by a belt road that connects with all the trunk lines entering Portsmouth and Norfolk.

The town is composed of 253 houses all modern; each house consists of five rooms, bath, hot water, electric lights and street sewers. Besides the above, each house has a large front yard for flowers and a back yard for a garden.

In addition to the 253 houses already constructed, there are 70 vacant lots. The streets are wide and improved with hard gravel. In the middle of the streets are planted flowers and shrubbery.

A modern 10-room brick school building is also owned by the town. This school building is equipped to meet all community needs, having a spacious auditorium for concerts, picture shows and dances. The school rooms are of the most modern type known. Truxtun is one of the most beautiful spots in the Tidewater section. The town cost the Government ranging from $1900.00 to $2600.00 by over $1,000,000 to build.

Of the 253 houses there, 143 have been sold and are now occupied by Colored citizens. The syndicate which now takes over these equities and properties, will at once reduce the Government purchase price, 25 per cent to these home buyers. All of the 105 unsold houses will immediately be placed on the market on the basis of the generous reductions. The payment on these houses will not exceed one per cent a month. They have also arranged, at a cost of about $10,000, to paint all the houses constituting the town.

It was authoritatively announced here that the new owners plan to develop a regular town and give the race an opportunity to govern itself. While Negro towns are not a new experiment the progress of Truxtun will be watched with interest.

SYNDICATE WILL REDUCE PRICES IN TRUXTUN HOMES

Norfolk Journal and Guide

$10,000 To Be Spent Immediately For Repainting of All of The Houses; 105 Houses To Go On Market.

NOTIFIED THAT BID IS FORMALLY ACCEPTED

1-19-24

Information has been received by Messrs. W. H. C. Brown, of Newport News and Norfolk, Dr. A. J. Strong, vice-president and treasurer of the Metropolitan Bank, Norfolk and Dr. Norman Lassiter, of Hampton, that their bid tendered last week to the United States government for the purchase of the entire town of Truxtun, at a figure said to be around $141,000, has been formally accepted.

Altho not specifically stated by either of the men concerned, it is generally believed here and in Washington, that nothing stands in the way of a full consumation of the deal except a few necessary formalities attendant upon such transactions.

The town of Truxtun, situated on a fine hard surfaced highway about a mile south of Portsmouth city, was built by the United States Housing Corporation as a war time project, specifically for the housing of colored government workers, employed in the Norfolk Navy Yard and other nearby war time industries. It is comprised of 253 five and ten-room houses. The former being one-family homes and the latter designed for two families. There are of modern structure and equipped with sanitary improvements, such as electric lights, bath spacious lawns, back yards and indestructible galvanized wire fences.

There are about 70 acres ol land suitable for building lots included in the project. Flowers and shrubbery decorate the lawns and sidewalks on every street. It is considered one of the most beautiful spots in Tidewater section.

The new purchasers will at once reduce the government purchase price from $1900 to $2600 by 25 percent to the home buyers already on the property. All of the i05 unsold houses will immediately be placed on the market on the basis of the same reductions. The payment on these homes will not exceed one per cent a month. They have also arranged at a cost of about $10,000 to paint all the houses constituting the town.

The action of this syndicate of investors constitutes the biggest piece of financing done by colored men in this section since the war, and is considered to be a most encouraging sign of renewed economic activity by the colored people of Tidewater.

Truxtun, Va

Town of Truxton, Bought By Colored Investors, To Boom Under Fine Improvements

Negotiations entered into a few weeks ago between representatives of the United States Housing Corporation and a syndicate of local race business men who entered a high bid for the purchase of the entire town of Truxtun have been completed and the transfer of the project to this syndicate effected.

The new owners, the Truxtun Home Corporation, have revised the sale prices of the homes on a greatly reduced schedule, planned elaborate improvements. Renewed interest is now being manifested in the project as a very desirable home sight.

Norfolk
Journal
Guide

2-9-24

This beautiful residence division, which since the day the United States government, acting through the Housing Corporation completed it as a housing project for colored workers of local war industries, has been buffeted by the uncertainities of governmental red tape, indecision and dilatoriness, is now firmly established in private ownership of local interests thus, at last, affording the residents direct contact with those whom they must deal until the property is paid for. Not only is this transfer of Truxtun hailed by the people now on the place with much elation, but it is also regarded by those of adjacent communities as a very significant incident. Aside from the natural race pride that is being manifested on all sides on account of the ability of colored men to rise to the occasion and acquire the property at a high figure, there is the pleasant assurance that a local ownership with private capital invested will most certainly arrest whatever deterioation that has set in on the place, further improve it and manifest a personal interest that will increase the contenement of the residents on the project and be inviting to others to locate there.

Already there is being manifested by home seekers renewed interest in Truxtun, now that the future of the place is chartered along the same course that other real estate investments traverse.

A BEAUTIFUL LOCATION

Truxtun is situated on the Deep Creek Boulevard about a mile south of Portsmouth city. It stands upon an elevation of hard earth and remarkably free of mud, even during severe rains. It was constructed at a time when money was a minor consideration in its building. Laid out upon the plans of government architects and landscape designers, the streets, homes, yards and utilities are nearly perfect in placement. The project consists of 253 modern homes, the majority of which are of the five room bungalow type. There are a few ten-room two-family houses in the lot. No house sets on a lot fronting on less than 30 feet and many have a frontage ranging from 35 to 45 feet and depth of from 110 to 125 feet. Each yard is surrounded with an indestructible galvanized wire fence affording ample space for small garden and chickens. Between the houses which stand from 10 to 15 feet apart are beautiful level expanses covered with a fine grass lawn during the summer and spring. Bedecking these lawns are all season foliage and flowers.

The sidewalks were graded by their builders with a precision and along the outer edge of each for their full length stand beautiful and sturdy plants or shade trees. Tourists have conceded that there is scarcely a more beautiful spot in the state than Truxtun during the early spring and late fall.

LOVELY INTERIORS

The interior of the houses is equipped with bath room, electric wiring and fixtures, a hot water range and boiler. White porcelain sinks and closets are in the kitchens. There is not a single dark nook or corner in a house in Truxtun, each one being built with a special view of obtaining abundant sunlight throughout the day. The walls are of beautiful white plaster and the floors are made of excellent quality pine or cypress that readily lends itself to the most artistic color shading. The houses stand upon a sturdy brick wall foundation and are impregnable to the freaks of violent winds.

On the property is one of the most modern school buildings in the state, consisting of ten rooms and a spacious auditorium and constructed of face brick and stone.

The new owners will at once set to work making elaborate improvements to the property, it was stated this week. A large sum of money will be expended for repainting and other needed features.

They are now offering for sale between one and two hundred unsold houses on the place at greatly reduced prices, a small cash payment being sufficient to enable the homeseeker to move in and the balance in most liberal installment payments.

Both street car and jitneys pass Truxtun, the Prentis Park car from the ferry being a direct route.

The syndicate owning the property, which is now the Truxtun Home Corporation is comprised of: W. H. C. Brown, banker, of Norfolk and Newport News, president; Rev. J. Albert Handy, of Norfolk, vice president; Dr. A. J. Strong, banker, of Norfolk, secretary; Dr. Norman Lassiter, of Hampton, treasurer; William M. Rich, banker, of Norfolk, and J. C. Brooks, real estate broker, Norfolk; Thomas W. Newbie, real estate broker, Portsmouth.

[illegible] U. S.

$10,000 Government Built Town Of Truxton, Va., Sold To Race Financier Is A New Step Forward

PLANNING SUBURB

[illegible] Modern Dwellings; Electric And Steam Railway Service, Public Edifices.

PORTSMOUTH, [illegible] Sep. 30.—No [illegible] Boley, Okla., and Brooklyn, Ill., the [illegible] and run [illegible] Negroes [illegible] through the [illegible] government [illegible]

[illegible] Negro [illegible]

[illegible] Portsmouth [illegible] was [illegible] world war [illegible] the [illegible] government [illegible] builders and [illegible] town [illegible] towns in [illegible] Navy Yard in Portsmouth [illegible] by both electric and steam [illegible]

[illegible] dwellings of a modest yet [illegible] architecture. [illegible] lights [illegible] Each house [illegible] and [illegible] The town [illegible] and sewer system [illegible] streets [illegible] with [illegible]

[illegible] all community needs, having [illegible] concerts [illegible] school [illegible] of the most modern type.

[illegible] 250 houses 113 have been [illegible] are now occupied. All [illegible]

[illegible] houses will not [illegible] to spend $10,- [illegible] buildings in [illegible] their own govern- [illegible] and [illegible] own [illegible] town in every respect [illegible] spirit of the new Negro [illegible] faith and progress [illegible]

BOLEY HAS ITS OWN BANKS, FACTORIES

The little town of Boley, Okla., just 27 years old, has a population of 5,000, all members of the Race. Samuel M. [illegible], re-elected for fifth year, is mayor of Boley, which boasts one of the first Race banks ever to receive a charter—the First National Bank of Boley. Another financial house does business in the town under the name of the Farmers and Merchants' bank.

Boley has a well organized public school system with 600 registered students. In the high school last year [illegible] students were enrolled. A [illegible] college has been established in the town.

A broom factory, an electric plant, [illegible] factory, an ice plant and several miscellaneous industries make up the business enterprises of the town and cover a square mile. Among the successful business men have [illegible] M. [illegible], owner of a meat market, S. W. Williams, a grocer, L. L. Colpfin, a dry goods merchant, [illegible] W. Charles, a shoe dealer, C. W. Kelly, another owner of a shoe store, C. L. White, proprietor of a hardware store, and C. H. Roberts, barber.

Boley, located 80 miles from Oklahoma City, on the Fort Smith and Oklahoma railroad and on the State Ozark Trail, was founded by Tom Hayes, a Texas farmer, who took up an abandoned Indian dugout and later built for his family the first house in Boley.

The city government includes a board of aldermen, city clerk and city marshall. There is bus service to the town and taxi service within it. Three hotels and nine churches are in the town. Boley owns the land for 15 miles around the settled area. Around several of the farms oil has been struck.

St Louis Argus
10/21/1925

Truxton, Va.

Towns and Settlements-1934

General

134

NEGRO STATE IN U. S. PROPOSED BY W. VA. DOCTOR

Journal and Guide

Says It Would End Lynching And Segregation

1-27-34

Norfolk, Va.

LOGAN, W. Va.—Dr. J. D. Gibson, practising physician of this city and president of the Press Association of Southern West Virginia, sees in the formation of a seperate Negro state the solution of the recent lynch contagion.

Dr. Gibson, who it is said has already received hundreds of letters some taking issue with him on his proposal, feels that a state where Negroes might "develop their talents, and become economically strong and independent as other races of the earth" unhampered will prove the panacea for the many interracial ills afflicting the nation.

"I claim a new deal for the black man," said Dr. Gibson discussing his plan, here, "just as President Roosevelt claims a new deal for America."

Roosevelt and Christ

After comparing the President's consideration of the "forgotten man" with Christ's administrations to the meek and lowly in which he used the words "Roosevelt and Saviour" interchangeably, Dr. Gibson continued.

"Black people must realize that they have in Mr. Roosevelt a personal friend in the White House to whom they can appeal for aid in the prevention of further lynchings and butcherings of their own flesh and blood." The Republican party "has utterly failed to stop, check or even legally challenge lynching in America."

The proposal of Dr. Gibson calls on Congress to appropriate to the exclusive use of Negroes one of the largest states in the union. This transfer, he explains, might be accomyplished through legislation which would give to each property owning Negro a tract of land in the new state equivalent to that owned by him at present in any part of the United States.

Would Maintain Status

This state, would of course, maintain its former status in relation to other states and to the Federal government, sending its representatives to the House and its senators to the Senate as before.

Here, Dr. Gibson explains, not proscribed by yielding bounds characteristic of the bi-racial atmosphere prevalent in the country today, the Negro could expand to the very limits of his capacity in the operation of business, the practicing of the professions, the patronizing the arts and the exercising of his political and civil rights.

There would be, as he sees it, no contact with whites, hence no friction and resulting bad feeling between the races to which he attributes the lynchings of the past year.

The details of Dr. Gibson's plan, and the method he would employ in gaining his ends, and as to how he would exact the authority from his 11,999,999 racial brothers to carry out his project are all details which if he has worked out, he has not yet made public.

Towns and Settlements – 1929

Wisconsin.

92

JOURNAL
MILWAUKEE, WIS.

JUL 1 1 1928

Negro Revives Colony Project

Physician Says He'll Take Over Liabilities of Fugitive

Plans for establishing a rural community for negroes near Caledonia, in Racine county, which crumbled three weeks ago with the disappearance of J. Ferdinand Williams, Milwaukee negro who was promoting the enterprise, will be revived by Dr. Edgar Thomas, negro physician and owner of the Community drug store, 478 Seventh st.

Dr. Thomas said Thursday that he intends to take up the real estate project where Williams left it and will assume losses of between $5,000 and $6,000 which Williams had collected from prospective home owners in the new community before his disappearance.

Seeks Clear Titles

The negro community project consists of 116 acre lots, of which 42 have been sold, most of them at a flat price of $500 each, Dr. Thomas said. On most of the lots sold purchasers had paid only a small part of the principal, he said, although a few had paid off their entire obligations. Dr. Thomas plans to obtain clear titles for those who had paid off and will take over the land contracts entered into by the instalment buyers, allowing full credit for payments made to Williams, he said.

Will Promote Venture

Dr. Thomas said that he probably would organize a company to promote the real estate venture and would make application to the state real estate board for a real estate operator's license at once. A dance and recreation pavilion which has been started on the property will be completed and some homes will be erected in the new community before the summer is over, he said. Chicago and Milwaukee negroes have shown interest in the settlement and it is expected that the 74 acre lots still unsold will be disposed of without difficulty, Dr. Thomas said.

The Milwaukee Urban league is planning to hold a picnic for negroes on the property July 27.

Williams has been sought by police for several days following the issuance of a warrant charging him with the embezzlement of $500 from Lawson and Gertrude 4 ‘uos,’wo of the prospective colonist

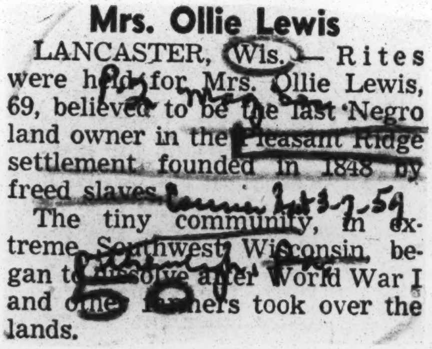
Caledonia, Wisconsin

1959

259

PLEASANT RIDGE (settlement) -WISCONSIN

50 1959



Mrs. Ollie Lewis

LANCASTER, Wis. — Rites were held for Mrs. Ollie Lewis, 69, believed to be the last Negro land owner in the Pleasant Ridge settlement founded in 1848 by freed slaves.

The tiny community, in extreme Southwest Wisconsin, began to dissolve after World War I and other farmers took over the lands.

[illegible]

Courier [illegible] 3-7-59

Pittsburgh, Pa.

50

THE FOLLOWING FOLDERS CONTAIN ARTICLES ABOUT SEVERAL TOWNS OR COMMUNITIES ON THE SAME CARD THESE ARE INDEXED AND LISTED ON THE VARIOUS FOLDERS.

Towns- 1912

1912

ALLENSWORTH

To the Editor of The Age: 2-8-12

I arrived in Pasadena the morning of March 22, 1909, from Norfolk, Va. I went to Allensworth April 28 and returned to Pasadena feeling highly satisfied at what I saw, and later returned to Aleinsworth with my family. I unloaded a carload of eighteen cows at Allensworth the morning of March 1, 1910, and two days later I made my first shipment of cream. I have increased my herd from time to time until now my herd numbers forty mature cows, ten heifers and two bulls. I have in addition five horses and mules, thirty head of hogs, and farming implements ample for all work of my ranch.

My ranch has twenty-four acres, of which twelve were seeded to alfalfa on February 24, 1911, which gave me four cuttings, or four tons per acre per year, and I pastured the fifth. At this writing it is just looking splendid, showing every indication of maximum returns another year. I am now preparing 6¾ acres to sedd to alfalfa in February of 1912. I feel safe in saying that our soil and climate is second to none in the United States for the production of alfalfa, and alfalfa heads the list as a money maker in the estimation of agricultural science; in fact it is the best mortgage lifter the farmer has, especially when marketed thorugh the dairy cow. Not only does our soil produce maximum crops of alfalfa, but under actual trials it has proved itself equally adapted to the growth of all grain crops and practically every variety of vegetables which were tried here the last two seasons with record-breaking results. Why shouldn't it when you consider that we have the benefit of the virgin soil which eliminates the painful situations that the farmer is forced to encounter in practically all the eastern states, and that is, first make the soil after buying a place, which I can say from personal experience is indeed a handicap.

Our location is indeed the result of a very wise and commendable choice, as we are centrally located on the main line of the Santa Fe Railroad, between the two best commercial cities of the West, Los Angeles and San Francisco—both of which are ready at all times to gobble up everything that can possibly be produced in Allensworth.

We have a colony, a hotel, school, post office, two merchandise stores, barber shop, bakery, two religious or-[illegible]izations and a warehouse. The Al-[illegible]sworth Brass Band has been organ-[illegible] and bids fair for success. We [illegible] a ten-piece orchestra that is in-[illegible] a credit to the colony and the [illegible] As well as having a good school [illegible]er, we have an excellent music [illegible]r. Our children do not have to [illegible]nt themselves with anything that would tend to detract from their former training. We are also surrounded by other live colonies and large ranches which makes a strong demand for more labor than we can supply.

We say to our brother eastern farmer, it is better over here than there, and these remarks are based on sixteen years' experience as a farmer in dear old Virginia. We can truthfully say that we have accomplished more here in two years than was possible in Virginia. My advice is to come and see.

Sincerely,
E. Z. HUNT,

Allensworth, Cal.

PLATEAU, NEAR MOBILE HAS DESTRUCTIVE FIRE

Thought To Have Been of Incendiary Origin.

Mont Adv 9-22-12

MOBILE, ALA., Sept. 21—Fire at 2:30 o'clock this morning destroyed twenty houses and two stores in Plateau Alabama, an almost exclusively negro village, five miles north of city, entailing a loss of $75,000.

The fire is said to be of incendiary origin and Mose Marachose has been placed under arrest in connection with the fire. Marachose is alleged to have held a grudge against E. W. Glover in whose store the fire started.

COTTON SEED OIL MILL IN OPERATION

Formal Opening of Mill at Mound Bayou, Miss., Attended by Nearly Ten Thousand Persons

12-5-12

Special to The New York Age.

Memphis, Tenn., Dec. 3.—Your correspondent was among a considerable group of men and women from Memphis who attended the formal opening of the cottonseed oil mill at Mound Bayou, Miss., a few days ago. Several present were heard to say that they did not believe that the members of our race in the United States appreciated the significance of the starting of this tremendous commercial enterprise by the black people of Mississippi and other parts of the South. Several surprises were in store for the party which went from Memphis to Mound Bayou. All were surprised at the tremendous crowd that gathered in the Negro town to hear the address of Booker T. Washington and to witness the formal opening of the mill by the blowing of the whistle for the first time. There were at least from eight to ten thousand people on the grounds, coming not only from Mississippi, but from Alabama, Tennessee, Texas, Illinois, Louisiana and other States.

The second thing that surprised the Memphis delegation was the size of the cottonseed oil mill. The visitors had no conception that the buildings were so large or the machinery so costly and complicated.

The third element of surprise grew out of the fact that the city of Mound Bayou was found to be much larger than the visitors had expected, and that throughout the day, notwithstanding there were thousands of strangers in the city, good order was maintained.

Charles Banks, Isaiah T. Montgomery and the board of directors of the cottonseed oil mill deserve the gratitude of the race. It marks the most forward step in business directions in our opinion that has been undertaken by black people. The launching of this cottonseed oil mill, located as it is in the heart of the South, will do more good in the solution of the race problem than the passing of many resolutions or the holding of a long series of indignation meetings.

The oil mill was planned by colored men, built by the hands of colored men and with colored men's money. The whole enterprise has so far cost $80,000, and it has no debt resting upon it. Charles Banks and his co-workers deserve and should have the thanks of our race.

Western Outlook

ALLENSWORTH.

San Francisco Cal.

September 17, 1912.

The railroad crew is increased by three men.

K. D. Payne was our usual Sunday visitor.

The warehouse is filled with grain—70,000 sacks.

A. Stockett made a flying trip to San Francisco this week.

Mrs. F. Smith will erect a neat cottage in the near future.

Bishop Caldwell of Zion church will be with us on October 9.

Mr. Over was a business caller at Visalia and Tulare this week.

William Matthews has gone to Los Angeles for medical treatment.

Mr. Walen was in Wasco on Saturday, buying materials for the school.

Col. Allensworth, who has been attending the G. A. R., returned home to-day.

A representative of the Olds Manufacturing Company, pumps, engines, etc., was here for a few days.

G. W. Hixon has moved to his town lot. "She must have told him he would have to live in town."

Charles Brown of the Fowler Fruit Co. was badly hurt by a train running into him. He is better at this writing.

Mrs. E. Jones of Bakersfield was a visitor to Allensworth on Sunday. She came up to see her daughter, Miss Hazel, who is stopping at the Hotel Allensworth.

The growing popularity of our news stand is shown by out-of-town friends buying their reading matter from us. Among the magazines the Crisis is the leader.

Work has started on the new school building. Mrs. Allensworth turned the first shovelful of dirt for the foundation. The old school will be moved to morrow to a lot donated by Mrs. Allensworth to the city. The building will be used by the colonists for a reading room and the county library will furnish books, magazines, etc., which are much needed.

Miss Eva Whiting, acting organist at Friendship church, was notified Monday of her appointment as a teacher in the public school of Allensworth, of which Prof. W. A. Payne is principal. A graduate of Gloucester (Ohio) high school and a student in the University of Ohio Miss Whiting is well fitted for the position. She came to Pasadena with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Nathan C. Whiting, about five months ago. A charming presence together with an unusual talent in music has made Miss Whiting well known and popular in Pasadena. Her many friends, however, rejoice in the good fortune of Allensworth in securing this young lady for the school. Miss Whiting will take up her new duties about October 1st, her parents removing to the colony later in the fall.

Mrs. Mary Gross

NEGRO COMMUNITY ATTRACTS ATTENTION

Plateau, Ala., Has Nearly 3,000 Inhabitants—Every Business House Conducted by Negroes.

11-21-12

Special to The New York Age

Plateau, Ala., Nov. 19.—This little town, Plateau, is about six miles from Mobile and is connected by street railway with this important seaport. A school known as the Plateau Public School has been organized with Prof. I. J. Whitley as president. A recent farmers conference was held here and was largely attended by many of the farmers of this immediate section.

The following facts about this town may be interesting to the readers of The Age:

1. It is entirely a colored community of about 2,000 or 3,000 people.
2. Every business house (store) in the immediate town is conducted by a colored man, there being a dozen or more of these stores.
3. A large majority of the colored people own their own homes. In fact, there are a very few colored people there who do not own their own homes. One of two colored men are renting five or six houses each.
4. A majority of the men work at lumbering about one mile away. Quite a number, however, in addition to the stores, are beginning to cultivate their plots of land, ranging from a half acre to five or six acres, with a view to trucking in the Mobile markets.
5. The colored people have raised $900 and have purchased an old dwelling and about one acre of land for the use of a public school. No building was provided them.
6. The teacher, I. J. Whitley, has moved here and lives among the people. He is steering them in the right direction, having first set the example of whitewashing his school house,, school fences, cleaning his yards and keeping things in fairly good repair. A Tuskegee graduate of last year, a young woman, Miss Olegra Boyd, is teaching both cooking and sewing, and has organized a mothers' club, which club supports the domestic science work.
7. The fact that the Mobile County Fair Commissioners have asked Mr. Whitley to gather up the exhibits from the schools and colored people in the county and have charge of their county fair indicates the esteem in which Mr. Whitley is held.

Mr. Whitley is endeavoring to get the whole town whitewashed and to have every man there who owns property cultivate his plot, giving more attention to the agricultural side than to the milling.

Allensworth, Cal., has just completed a $20,000 warehouse for the purpose of receiving and shipping freight.

[illegible] -17-12

MOUND BAYOU IMPROVEMENTS

Negro Town to Issue Municipal Bonds and Provide Better Facilities

WANTS TRUST FUND

Montgomery Seeking to Develop Town as Agricultural and Industrial Center.

REALTY VALUATION OF TOWN

Citizens own $300,000 in Real Estate and $200,000 in Personal Property —Many Business Institutions.

New York Age

4-25-12

Many improvements are soon to be made in Mound Bayou, Miss., the widely known Negro town, according to Isaiah T. Montgomery, Mound Bayou's founder, who is in New York on business. Mr. Montgomery is negotiating to place municipal bonds of the town on the market, which will be done to inaugurate civic improvements, such as sidewalks, light, water and sewerage facilities. Already Mound Bayou has considerable plank walks and an artesian well that flows fifteen to twenty gallons a minute of pure, soft water. However, no arrangements have been made to date for piping it.

While in New York Mr. Montgomery is arranging to float the $40,000 worth of oil mill bonds, and is further seeking to reach the class of far-sighted philanthropists with a view to showing them the need of the formation of a permanent trust or foundation fund of several hundred thousand dollars, to be loaned among the Negroes at four and four and a half per cent., which would encourage the development of small farms and the building of comfortable homes. It is the idea of Mr. Montgomery that a portion of the interest be used for building suitable rural schools, in which the South is quite deficient, particularly as relating to Negroes.

The proposed trust or foundation fund may be made up in part of the endowments already set apart for Negro institutions. In that case a proper proportion of the interest would be preserved to the purpose prescribed. The primary object of the investment sought is to secure the perpetuation and d[illegible]opment of Mound Bayou as a progressive, agricultural, industrial and commercial center and for the promotion of thrift and enterprise that may continually demonstrate the administrative and constructive capacity of the Negro, thereby contributing greatly as an encouraging example to the race at large as well as to the lasting and general good of the State of Mississippi.

Mound Bayou's History.

Mound Bayou derives its name from two bayous that stretch irregularly like an enormous Y, the left arm northeast and the right arm northwest. About three miles southeast of the town they join at the foot of an enormous mound relic of the Indian.

About 1885 the L. N. O. & T. Railroad owned principally by Messrs Collis P. Huntington and R. T. Wilson, came into possession of a million acres comprising a large portion of the great Yazoo Delta, at that time considered scarcely habitable continuously by the Anglo-Saxon. In 1887 the company sought the attention of Isaiah T. Montgomery, who believed that he saw a golden opportunity for his race and soon concentrated all of his powers to attract the better class of Negroes and encourage them to buy homes on the section drained by the two bayous. The country was a trackless wilderness assessed at one to two dollars per acre, and in many cases contracts had to be renewed. Montgomery instituted a rule with the railroad not to wholly cancel a contract as long as a settler could be depended upon, and in case of failure, another man was put in his place.

Very little live stock or building material was available, frontier methods were resorted to, settlers joining to help each other, split and hew logs to build their cabins, made slab and puncheon floors, and pile the logs that had to be [illegible] small clearings. Mean-

[illegible] been t[illegible] have the peo[illegible] responsibility for the reputation of the community. As a result law and order prevails to an extent equal to any town in the South. The first machinery brought in was a small saw mill used mostly to cut thousands of the fine white ash logs that abounded in the high cane lands. All land became cleared, a cotton gin and press was attached to the mill.

The Bank of Mound Bayou.

Some seven years ago Charles Banks associated with a number of others, established the Bank of Mound Bayou. This institution now owns a two-story brick building, has a paid up capital of $25,000 with resources of over $100,000, and has been of invaluable service in concentrating and developing the business of agricultural interests. There is at present three saw mills that operate on an average of four or five months a year, cutting about one million feet that enters mostly into the local trade. Many millions of feet of oak, ash, elm, cypress and a little gum are sold to Memphis mills in logs at from $9 to $25 per thousand feet. There are two Munger System gins worth $10,000, that handle between three and four thousand bales of bender and staple cotton annually and thousands of tons of cotton seed.

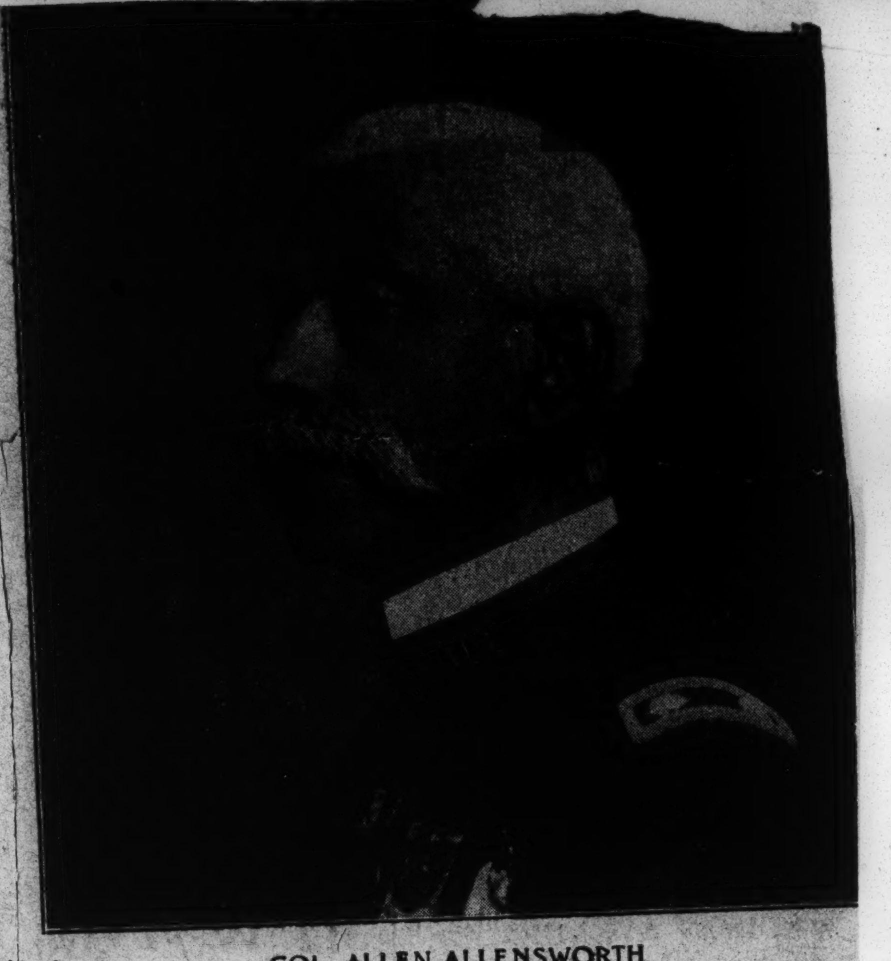
Among the leading business houses is the Farmers' Co-Operative Mercantile Company, occupying a brick store 50x70 feet and carrying $10,000 worth of stock. Several other stores carry from four to six thousand dollars worth of stock. The town now covers between 160 and 200 acres, and has a population of 1,000. Realty valuations approximate $300,000, personal property, about $200,000; the value of church property, $12,000, and a $10,000 brick church is in course of erection. The value of school property is $5,000, owned by the A. M. A. Baptist, $3,000, and the public school, $1,500. A public library, constructed of brick, is valued at $5,000, $4,000 of which was contributed by Andrew Carnegie. There is in active course of construction an ice plant and a brick manufacturing plant.

Mound Bayou Oil Mill.

The pride of the community is the Mound Bayou Oil Mill, which is the direct outgrowth of the National Business League started in Boston about 12 years ago by Booker T. Washington. Mississippi Negroes under the leadership of Chas. Banks, were among the first to inaugurate a State League, after considerable deliberation extending over two years, they determined on building an oil mill with funds derived by the wide distribution of stock in small denominations to teach the power of combination.

The oil mill industry was selected because Negroes have long performed practically all of the industrial and mechanical work attached to the industry. The company is duly incorporated, capitalized at $100,000, $80,000 of the capital is paid up, over 50 per cent. having been contributed by Negroes of Mound Bayou. A plant has been constructed and equipped with the most improved machinery pronounced by competent critics equal to any mill in the State. Dr. Booker T. Washington will start the machinery personally in October.

There is still $20,000 of unsold stock, but in order to assure ample finances to begin with, the managing officers have determined on issuing $40,000 in first mortgage bonds in denominations of $500 to $1,000 for the following purposes: to purchase tanks, belting and electrical plant, $5,000; to pay off the entire indebtedness, $15,000, which applies to machinery of the best class that has already been received and installed, and leave a reserve of $20,000 for operating. The mill has a capacity of handling forty tons of seed in twenty-four hours, and is so designed that the output can be readily doubled by adding two presses. A ton of raw seed averages in cost $18 to $25, the same seed turned into manufactured product will sell for $30 to $36. The cost of manufacture approximates $3 per ton.



COL. ALLEN ALLENSWORTH
Retired Chaplain U. S. Army, Founder of Allensworth, Cal.

N.Y. Age

3-29-12

#1 ✓

Towns and Settlements - 1913 4

BUY A HOME

The Extra nov. 15, 1913.

Shurbet City, Roper, Ala.

The most beautiful place in Jefferson county set aside for

COLORED PEOPLE ONLY

You can buy as small a place as 50x100 feet by the lake and park for $50—$3 per month, but I urge upon you the great importance of owning five to ten acres while the price is yet very low.

Cut Prices Last Till October 15th

Namely, 4 in 1 94x207 1-2in square for $50.00; $5 down and $4 per month. No interest no taxes; very easy terms on five and ten acre farms. This is a good, gray, loam sandy land, superior for onions, potatoes, strawberries, cabbage, cane and all garden truck— Why not own five acres or more and make a $1000 a year and up—Extra fine for poultry too—Cow range can't be beat—As for water, will say it is the best.

Nice Free Park and Lake

FOR COLORED PEOPLE ONLY

also base ball park. Four passenger and two freight trains stop at our station daily. We also have free R. F. D. mail service. or Regular trips every Thursday, via Seaboard Air Line Rail Road. leave Terminal Station 6:30, return 12:15 noon.

About 900 Acres in Tract

Yours for a Square deal,

J. W. SHURBET.

Phone 485-Woodlawn

7604 Walker Avenue, East Lake, Ala.

REV. G. W. MITCHELL, 2211 29th Street, N. Birmingham, General Agent.

The New York Age.

COTTON SEED OIL MILL NOW OPEN

10-23-13

Special to The New York Age.

Mound Bayou, Miss., Oct. 21.—The Mound Bayou Cotton Seed Oil Mill began manufacturing on October 9. This is the largest commercial enterprise being promoted anywhere in the country by Negroes. It has a capital and a paid-in fund of more than $100,000, including operating fund.

The managing director of this enterprise is Charles Banks, first vice-president of the National Negro Business League, and cashier of the Bank of Mound Bayou. This enterprise owes its existence to the State Negro Business League of Mississippi, which, under Mr. Banks' direction, several years ago undertook to establish a business enterprise which should enlist the financial support of the Negro people of the State of Mississippi.

The oil mill was dedicated a year ago by Dr. Booker T. Washington, who delivered the principal address, and by C. H. J. Mooney, editor of the Memphis *Commercial Appeal*, who also spoke.

COLORED AGENTS WANTED TO SELL LOTS AND LAND AT GOULD, ARKANSAS.

We, as a race, must prove to the world that in a state of freedom we have the ability to do our part. This land can be bought at $25.00 an [illegible] not overflow. Write

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me today. D. G. Hill, National Aronic Master of "The National Order of the Mosaic Templars of America." Residence phone 3906, Office phone 6805, 400 West Markham street, Little Rock, Arkansas.

D. G. HILL.

BOLEY HAS A POPULATION OF 4,000

N.Y. Age, N.Y. City 4/3/13

Negro Town Has Bank With $75,804.44 in Deposits—Town Has Twenty-five Grocery Stores and Water Works Worth 35,000

Boley, Okla., April 1.—The latest census from Boley, one of several Negro towns of this State, gives a population of 4,000, a bank with a capital and surplus of $11,500 and deposits of $75,804.44, twenty-five grocery stores, five hotels, seven restaurants, water works worth $35,000; electric plant worth $20,000; four drug stores, four cotton gins ranging from $8,000 to $15,000 in value, one bottling works, one steam laundry, two newspapers, two ice cream parlors, two hardware stores, one jewelry store, four department stores, a $40,000 Masonic Temple, two colleges, one high school, one graded school, two city school buildings, one telephone exchange costing $3,000, 842 school children, ten teachers, six churches, two livery stables, two insurance agencies, one second-hand store, two undertaking establishments, one lumber yard, two photographers, one bakery, and one of the best city parks in the State.

Boston Reliance 1-4-12

Deerfield, Colorado, is the scene of a Negro colony in the West. It is located west of the Missouri River and north of the Mason and Dixon Line, 70 miles northeast of Denver. Twenty six colored families are settled on government land. Most of them have already been here long enough to own the soil they till. They have 6,000 acres under their control. In 1911 they had but two habitable houses. Now they have fourteen. In the same year there were but 200 acres fenced; now there are 3,000. In 1911 they had 150 acres broken and in cultivation, this year 500 acres are under cultivation. The land is especially adapted to the cultivation of beets. The settlement is crying for tradesmen. They are especially in need of blacksmiths, cobblers and saddlemak

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COLORED TOWN.

Vern[illegible]a., Dec. 19. Vernon is a new [illegible]sively colored town in Oklaho[illegible] the Fort Smith & Western Ry. [illegible]ich is rapidly [illegible] has now population of over five hun

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NEW NEGRO TOWN

Roberts, Texas, Formally Opened With Plenty of Speech-making—Town Named After "Ed." Roberts, a Well-to-Do Negro Farmer. 10-3-12

Special to The New York Age.

Houston, Tex. Oct. 1.—Texas has a Negro town, which will be known as Roberts, Texas. On Saturday, September 28, Roberts was formerly introduced to the world, and excursions were run from adjacent cities. Quite a number of Negro citizens from Houston attended the opening. The principal address was delivered by Prof. E. L. Blackshear of Prairie View. There was much speech-making and singing, and Roberts started off under the most favorable conditions.

The new town has been named after "Ed." Roberts, a wealthy Negro citizen who owns the entire townsite. Surrounding the town are about fifteen thousand acres, controlled and cultivated by members of the race. The Palacios branch of the Southern Pacific Railroad runs through the center of the property.

A NEW NEGRO COLONY IN THE WEST

Two Georgia Negroes Make Good and Establish a Colony on Government Lands at Blackdom, N. M.

3-22-13

Special to Dallas Express:

Blackdon, New Mex., Mar. 19.—It was a woman, one of "Lucy Laney's girls," who, back there in Georgia, fifteen years ago, told her husband that "he must go somewhere and find a place where they might have a home in which to rear her rapidly increasing family." Like Isabella of Spain, who equipped Columbus, that he might find a new route to India, and incidentally discover America, she was ambitious. Not that she might rule an empire, but that her children should live within a more liberal environment. Thus was stirred the spirit of the pioneer in the breast of Francis M. Boyer, and he determined to migrate westward.

Approaching a boyhood chum with the suggestion "that to go west, in ten years they would be worth a $1,000," he furnished the incentive to Daniel G. Keyes to join him in the search for a home of his ideals. After due preparation, with very little money, and against the advices of their friends, they began the journey. Afoot they came out of Georgia, into Alabama, across Mississippi, into Louisiana and Texas and into New Mexico, having an experience, while seeking work and food, the telling of which is more like a "Dumas" tale" than re life. Stopping in the neighborhood Roswell, they sought work and began prospecting for the location of their home to be.

Settling upon a site, now Dexter, New Mexico, with 35 cents between them, they began anew the struggle for existence, on what was derisively termed a "dry claim." Derision and difficulties held no terrors for these two sturdy blacks, who in the required seven years demonstrated that black men could achieve success under new and untried difficulties, and had begun the development of what has since grown to be two of the most valuable holdings in that section.

Gratified with what had been in part accomplished, Frank Boyer, as he is usually called, began to plan the realization of a dream that he had carried in his bosom, since the day he first looked over this broad expanse of prairie land—the founding of a Negro colony on free government lands. Many acres were available, but to select the best was his purpose. After months of persistent effort and quiet investigation, he decided upon the site now occupied by the Blackdom Townsite, surrounded as it is by government lands. Purchasing forty acres the townsite was laid off; the crusade to secure colonists begun, which has brought together thirty-five families coming from Georgia, Mississippi, Tennessee, Kentucky, Illinois, Virginia, California and Texas, all of whom had felt that spirit of unrest that they sought to appease. These people have labored with a common interest with a result that they have a daily mail service, with a postoffice, a church and school, a pumping plant, a general store. Farming is the principal occupation, many of them having acquired a knowledge of this science since their coming into this section.

You do not know Frank Boyer. Perhaps it is well that I describe him here. Imagine a dark brown Negro 6 feet, 6 inches in height, weighing about 155 pounds, wearing a short scraggy beard, attired in a grey flannel shirt, corduroy trousers, tucked into high topped yellow shoes, then you have Frank Boyer. Talking is what he loves to do. In an ordinary conversation he gives to you no opportunity to do else but listen, and when he raises his black brown right arm to the heavens, saying: "I swear by that black arm and the God that created me," you catch a fleeting glimpse of that spirit of determination and energy which overcame the difficulties that a black man was sure to meet in a new country, on a "dry claim" and without friends. Frank Boyer is a college man, a graduate of Lincoln, at Oxford, Pa. His, wife, Mrs. Ella Boyer, is a graduate of Miss Lucy Laney's school in Georgia, and they have one of the most remarkable families in New Mexico. There are nine boys and one girl and every one a farmer.

Blockdom is no Eldorado. It affords an opportunity for the Negro of small means to make rapid headway. On government lands there are no rents to pay, no notes to meet, and every dollar put into improvements ld not alone to the value of your face, but make easier than is generally supposed the meeting of the government's requirements, that entitle you to "patent" to your homestead. The West is a great melting pot, composite in its make up, but in whic too few of our people have given th labors. it has advanced with gi strides, bringing wealth to many others than American born citizens, and counting least among its population he black men and women who are but now beginning to awake to its possibilities. Blackdom is but the beginning of a great movement that is sure to take hold of the many who are seeking a wider field for their ambitions, together with the possibility of shaping the constructive government under which they are to live.

'Twas Horace Greely, who advised the young men to go west years ago. Those who took his advice have had no cause to regret it. It is my advice to the Negro farmer to do likewise. Blackdom invites you to join; t is room for many who with stro arms, steady hearts, hard work and a little money can gather a harvest far beyond their anticipations.

JAS. HAROLD COLEMAN.

Freeman 4-19-13

The Union City News has been launched by N. W. Harllee at Union City, Texas, a colored town, owned and operated by colored people.

* * *

ALLENSWORTH COLONISTS SUCCEED

[TULARE REGISTER.]

The Western Outlook 10-18-13

Satisfactory agreement between the Allensworth colonists and the Pacific Farming Co. regarding the irrigation of land in the colony has at last been reached, according to the statement of Oscar Overr, the representative of the company in the negotiations. The company has accepted the terms presented by the colonists and the agreement will be signed this week. Acceptance of the terms was tendered the colonists in a telegram received by Overr from R. P. Gage, secretary of the Pacific Farming Company.

In this telegram Overr was instructed to meet Attorney Russell in this city and sign the agreement. Overr states that the colonists are perfectly satisfied with the concessions granted them by the farming company, and he believes there will be no trouble in the future between colonists and the company. The company has been very liberal with the colonists in all its dealings. By the terms of the agreement, the Allensworth water company, heretofore controlled by the Pacific Farming Co., will be turned over to the colonists. The present officers of the company will resign and officers will be elected from among the colonists. There are 750 acres of land under cultivation. A share of stock in the water company will be issued for each acre of land. As more land is placed under cultivation, stock will be issued to cover the addition. There are at present four wells flowing about 115 inches of water. The Pacific Farming Co. will have electric pumping plants placed in these wells, which will be turned over to the colonists. With the pumps about 175 inches of water are expected from the wells. This will be enough to irrigate the present acreage of the colony. As more acres of cultivated land are added, the farming company agrees to put in additional pumps.

PERSISTENT EFFORT CROWNED WITH SUCCESS

The Journal & Guide

Life and Character of Berry O'Kelly of Method, N. C., an Inspiration to Youth of Race

2-20-15

The subject of this sketch whose cut appears on this page is one of the most remarkable evolutions of Negro life in this country. He was born a slave in Chapel Hill about the beginning of the late Civil War. At an early age he became an orphan. He was cared for by his aunt and her husband, Mr. William Patterson, both being of that splendid type of sturdy growth which, in these days is becoming rare. The family removed to Wake immediately after the war and purchased land and erected a home about three miles west of Raleigh. They were earnest, honest, industrious people and became good livers. Under the tutilage of his foster parents young Berry laid the foundation of a career of success that has made him a marked man of the race.

Method is a development. Many Negroes from surrounding towns bought the land in the early year succeeding the surrender and erected small houses that they might avoid the exorbitant rents then prevailing in the cities and towns. They were also, and, perhaps, more powerfully moved by the universal ambi then dominating our people uild and own homes of their Soon there was a settlement, then a village. In order to supply the needs of the villagers a small grocery and general store was organized and operated under the firm name of Woods and O'Kelly, the members being C. H. Woods and Berry O'Kelly. The business went through the varying fortunes of new ventures. Mr. Woods withdrawing from the business many years ago settled in Oklahoma where he is still residing. Mr. O'Kelly assumed entire charge. He devoted himself closely to his work. He studied the laws underlaying successful, commercial enterprise. He prospered, the community grew. A post office was established. A depot and freight office added. Mr. O'Kelly was appointed postmaster, his commission running back to October 23rd, 1890. He is also the railroad agent, the chairman of the school committee, conducts one of the largest general stores of any colored man in the State, owns a number of highly cultivated farms and is an extensive operator in real estate. He owns much valuable property in the heart of the city of Raleigh, being at the head of a company that has recently purchased for $10,000, the property on Fayetteville Street formerly used as the office of the News and Observer. This will be enlarged into a beautiful and commodious building with all modern conveniences. He is also a member of the Raleigh Shoe Store Company and Millinery Store which is now one of the principal mercantile houses in the city of Raleigh.

Mr. O'Kelly stands deservedly high with all classes, colors and parties. Devoting himself almost wholly to business pursuits he, by square dealing, prompt attention to obligations rounded out a measure of success rarely attained by any man. Unselfish, unostentatious, always ready to do his part in any worthy cause, he is today one of the finest examples to which we may point our children.

Method, which is peculiarly a development of his genius, offers many inducements to the organization of other enterprises among our people. It is growing. Three neat churches have been erected, a good school house built which is now being enlarged and modernized, one other store established, and the prospect is that ere long, this will become a centre of industry and enterprise among our people.

Jonestown [illegible]
5 miles from Richmond. Founder
D. R. Jones. Organized in 1900
National Negro Bus. League report
[illegible] Jones Crossing St.
Richmond

Towns and Settlements - 1913

Mound Bayou Three Years After

J. S. 10-4-13.

By Clement Richardson, Head of Division of English, Tuskegee Institute

Going down on the "Cannon Ball' of the Y. & M. V. Railway, I reached Mound Bayou in the still hours of the night. Barring the noise at the station, the town was as still as ghostland. As I got away from the station, however, I became aware of the lone puffing of an engine, the opening and shutting of a boiler door. I saw the glare of red fire in the distance. I had visited Mound Bayou in 1910. I recalled very distinctly everything I saw there. But this midnight engine was new to me. So, too, was the big oil mill, standing there with its shadow outlined against the stars.

I began even at that hour to look about, to see what progress had been made during these three years. I found that the engine and the boiler racket were an ice factory, puffing away day and night to supply the wants of the town and neighboring villages and big plantations.

This new item of business progress immediately started my curiosity and I set out the next morning to discover what changes had been made throughout the town since my last visit. I found that the town and community had increased their population from five thousand to eight thousand. People from all parts of the country were settling here, inspired by the unique enterprise of town-building in Negro history. These people were investing freely in business and in the rich soil free from the invasions of the boll wevil, and at that time rioting in cotton from four to six feet high.

Down one of the side streets were two new frame buildings, resembling in appearance small country stores; but stores I knew they were not, as the merchants were all situated on the more pretentious streets. Investigation revealed that a thriving bake shop and a steam laundry had been established here.

In a little while I sought out the post office. Here three years ago I had found the post mistress handing out Uncle Sam's mail in a little frame house down by the railroad. As I approached the building I missed the words "Post Office" above the door. I saw that the door was locked, as I drew near. The building was a storehouse.

"Where is the post office?" I asked a passer by. He pointed to a building across the street. This, too was new. A one-story brick structure, covering nearly a half block. It housed the post office very much enlarged, and the business of the Farmers' Mercantile Co. Here, too, was the office of the pioneer, Isaiah T. Montgomery. Mr. Montgomery was, as always, busy seeing and advising with farmers, answering letters, and sending out post cards and circulars to persons interested in the little town of his founding.

But the Mercantile Co. This, also, was a new company. It catered mainly to the farmers, as its name indicates, but it struck me as doing business on a dignified scale. Organized into departments of almost every conceivable merchandise, it kept its clerks stationed according to territory. The office and cash register occupied a back, but central, position, and as the clerks went to and fro for "cash" you got the hum of the genuine department store far past the embryonic stage. Eugene P. Booze is the business manager. Twice a year he issues a printed statement of assets, credits, expenses, etc. His statement of June will illustrate the effort of the company to be clean cut and above board in their business methods:

mi-annual Statement of the Farmers' Co-Operative Mercantile Co., of Mound Bayou, Mississippi, for six months, ending June 30, 1913.

Merchandise No. 1

Groceries, Hardware, and General Merchandise

Inventory of Stock on Hand January 1, 1913	$6,445.70
Invoices of Goods purchased during the period	5,892.93
Freight Bills and Sundry Purchases	1,132.44
Total Liabilities of Merchandise No. 1	13,471.07
Gross Profits for six months to balance	$15,351.22

Credits

Total Sales for six months' period	$10,917.47
Shortage and Sundry Corrections in Invoices	248.34
Inventory of Stock on Hand June [illegible], 1913	4,185.41
	$15,351.22

Recapitulation of Profit and Expenses

Gross earnings of Merchandise No. 1, in six months, $1,880.15 or 20.8 per cent.

Pro rata of Expenses attached to Merchandise No. 1, $351,384.48 or 15.32 per cent.

Net Profits in six months, ending June 30, 1913, $495.67 or 5.48 per cent.

Merchandise No. 2

Dry Goods, Notions, and Gents' Furnishings

Inventory of Stock on Hand January 1, 1913	$ 6,777.13
Invoices of Goods Purchased during that period	3,090.21
Freight Bills and Sundry Purchases	227.36
Total Liabilities of Merchandise No. 2	10,094.70
Gross Profits for six months ending June 30, 1913	2,159.05
	$12,253.75

Credits

Sales for six months, ending June 30, 1913	$ 5,128.28
Shortage and Sundry Corrections in Invoices	84.12
Inventory of Stock on Hand June 30, 1913	7,041.35
	$12,253.75

Recapitulation of Profits and Expenses

Gross Earnings of Merchandise No. 2 for period, $2,159.05 or 72.71 per cent.

Pro rata of Expenses attached to Merchandise No. 2 2-5 $922.96 or 31.1 per cent.

Net Profits in six months, ending June 30, 1913, $1,236.09 or 41.61 per cent.

Submitted to the meeting of Board of Directors, at a meeting held July 10, 1913.

Eugene P. Booze,
Business Manager.

As I came out of the store, a freight train held up and switched some dozen "flats" on the side track. Looking down the embankment near I saw a long heap of oak logs cut from the forests owned by the Negro farmers. These logs provide revenue to the farmers when times are "tight" and employment during the idle season. Still there are many forests about, untouched, many big oaks standing out defiantly against the horizon.

The Mound Bayou Bottling Works had increased its output considerably since 1910. The three or four cotton gins about were cleaning up for action, and a mile or so down the track they were breaking ground for a new brick yard. But the feature of the whole town is the $100,000 oil mill. It has been finished, dedicated, and set aside ready for action. It stands there, were it never to squeeze out a drop of oil, as a testimonial to what Negroes can do. They were completing a little office building a few paces from the main structure, and polishing up on the inside of main structure, getting ready to b in and turn to higher profits the seed from thirty thousand acres of cotton, to compete for seed throughout Bolivar County—seed from 80,000 bales of cotton. From 30 to 40 people will be employed when the mill is in full operation.

Through the town moves Charles Banks, Cashier of the Bank of Mound Bayou, carrying the financial burden of the whole settlement on his shoulders. There are few of any stores, shops, plants of any sort, few farms, but have his aid. The sports, the amusements of the town, all demand a certain amount of his personal attention. In many instances he is liberal almost to a fault. He puts himself to endless annoyances and inconveniences to see that the business and farms of each man keep their legs. Only a few months before my visit there, money being scarce, the question arose as to whether the town bank, of which Banks is cashier, should be embarrassed or the mortgages on the farm and other concerns be foreclosed. He preferred to embarrass the bank rather than have any enterprise in and about Mound Bayou in the least checked in their progress.

6-28-12

MES FOR NEGROES

BOOKER

Is the Town: Red River County Texas is the place.

PRICES LOW, SMALL CASH PAYMENT, BALANCE MONTHLY

ARM LANDS ALL AROUND THE TOWN, ASK US.

OKER TOWNSITE COMPANY, DETROIT, TEXAS.

Abila is the name of a new Negro town in California. The promoters advertise that there will be "no Shacks;" that fifty homes have been started; that "all the work is to be done by Negro labor," and that "no saloons or liquor establishments of any kind will be allowed in Abila."

3-13

Method N C

Near Raleigh

~~3 miles~~

3

Baptist Leader

COLLEGE PARK

The site of the Great Birmingham Baptist College, a College supported by four Associations.

11-8-13.

Located at Powderly Station, a 5c fare from Birmingham, on Powderly and Bessemer car line.

Have you bought one of these lots? Own your ow

An ideal place to live and educate the children.

Lots 50x125 feet deep. Price $300. Corners, $350. Sold on easy payments—$5.00 down, $5.00 per month. Buy now before the price advances.

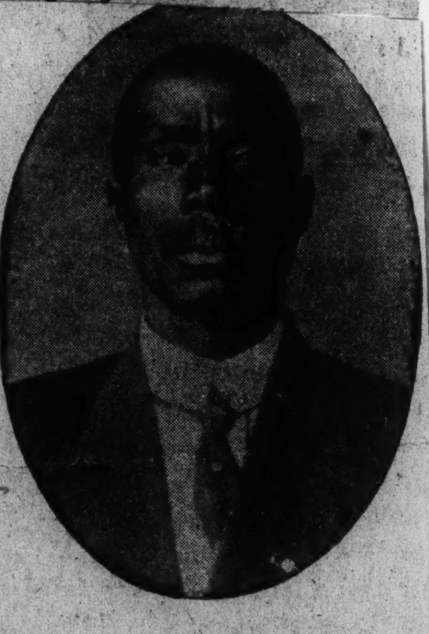
We refer you to any minister in the Birmingham district as to the value of an investment.

Call or write me a card and I will show you the property. Office No. 26 Chamber of Commerce, Corner of Nineteenth St. and First Ave. Phone 4665.

J. H. McCARY, JR., Salesman.
Nabors Land Company.

Another Great Movement in Mississippi

Offering the Negro a Splendid Opportunity to Prove his Capability of Self-government



H. S. Expose

Those wishing to established such proof may do so by becoming citizens of the prospective little town of Expose, the "Mound Bayou" of Southern Mississippi and exclutive Negro Town located in Marion County on the Gulf and Ship Island R. R. between Gultport, and Jackson, and in easy reach of the New Orleans' great northern R. R. running between New Orleans, and Jackson.

A healthful climate, a peaceful locality and great business opportunities are offered. Two churches (one Baptist, one Methodist) a high school and a number of business interprises, Big Saw Mill soon to be installad. Being surrounded by some of the best farm lands in this section of state inducements are offered to farmers as well as to those of other vocations. Both town lots and nearby farms for sale at ground floor figures aud on easy terms.

For further information consult,

H. S. EXPOSE
Founder and Real Estate Dealer
Expose, Miss.

BUY A FARM

At Cannonville, Ga.

Cannonville is a town and is controlled absolutely by colored people. Not a single man of any other race lives there; neither does any man of any other race live in sight of this town. It is on the Atlanta & West Point Railroad, 78 miles west of Atlanta. This is the home of the I. B. O. Industrial School.

The I. B. O. owns fifty acres of land in this town in which is their School and home for Orphans and Widows. There are 500 acres of land adjoining this town, within fifteen minutes walk of the station, and I can sell you all or any part of it.

For prices and terms address,

W. S. CANNON
5 1-2 South Broad St. ATLANTA, GA

#3

Towns - 1914.

BY ROSCOE SIMMONS.

The Atlanta Independent 9/12/14

9

Mound Bayou, Miss., September 10.—If one should come to Mound Bayou, the queen city of Negro progress in high expectation of finding sorrow or tears or bitter words for such evil days that have come—and gone—one would find "none sich." But one would find hope, and plenty of it, heart, and to spare, money to move the crops, and everybody lined up with the Allies against the boasting Hun.

Also Charles Banks would be found at home, sincerely set in the esteem of the community his genius has carried to a high place; and Isaiah T. Montgomery, whose statesmanship landed this fascinating retreat, still full of optimism and philosophy, bidding Banks to be of good cheer. Of all Mississippi towns, Mound Bayou is happiest. Here the word is that the enemy striking at the Negro necessarily strikes at Mound Bayou first, and the proud citizens dearly love the job of being foremost in the fray.

When the Bank of Mound Bayou, of which Charles Banks was cashier and founder, after eleven years of triumph, weathering every financial storm, was closed by the Banking Commissioner on August 19 for liquidation, the papers made something out of it, but not much; but the citizens of Mound Bayou made nothing of it, for the bank had built the town, invited the wonderful industrial development of the community, saved to the black owners the fertile lands, and added an acreage of 30,000, and had been the accommodating fiscal agent of the believers who came from every direction to help in the triumph of the great black city against scorners and scoffers all around. The people understood.

A week later when the insurance commissioner appointed a receiver for the Masonic Benefit Association, the pioneer Negro insurance company, of which Charles Banks was secretary and treasurer, the daily papers, following "information" handed them by fraternal politicians, printed many rumors calculated to lead towards unfairly judging Mr. Banks; but the people of Mound Bayou and all the people of Bolivar country were not disturbed. Mound Bayou know that that blow was not aimed at either Banks or Banks' town, but rather at the Negro fraternities of Mississippi—the mobilizing centers of all Negro efforts. Lord have mercy on the hindmost!

Mr. Banks Praised.

The Bank of Mound Bayou was closed during Mr. Bank's absence. The examiner said that there were no irregularities in the management of the institution, but that he was unsatisfied with the character of the securities representing the bank's collateral. He held that the securities were Negro securities, representing Negro industry and Negro enterprises and for the most part covering the progress of the Negro town, and that when they were realized upon they would be covered by Negro money; therefore for his purposes and according to his rule they were not worth while.

Since beyond the banking department of the State of Mississippi there is no appeal, and since the examiner exercises rights no man can dispute, there was no course open save to let the examiner have his way; good luck to him on his travels. The examiner found $40,000 in deposits and $9,000 in cash and sight exchange; every dime in its place in the figures, every dollar on the books, and every son belonging to Negroes. Many a bank lives on and breathes easily in the certain security of that kind of margin. But they are not in Negro towns, nor do their cashiers fill such big places in the affairs of the State.

The Masonic Benefit Association was for many years the heart and pride of the Mississippi Negroes. It has been the widows' fortress and the orphans' retreat. Upon the death of Bishop Lampton, the greatest of all masters in his day, the association was placed in the hands of Charles Banks. Banks thought he knew his people; he was certain of his ground. After the affairs of the association had been placed in his keeping he found that he had taken over an indebtedness of $250,000.

For three years he struggled against tremendous odds and only when a whole sea of trouble arose to engulf him was he willing to surrender the Masonic Benefit Association into the hands of a white receiver; and yet before the fatal day, Banks had paid out nearly $300,000 to the widows and orphans and cut the indebtedness from $250,000 to less than $100,000. He was the only man in Mississippi who could have done that. Master Masons knew it.

The new law in the State of Mississippi, dealing with the operation of judgements was too much for the Masonic Benefit Association. Banks found it impossible to meet the judgments and paid all new claims on assessments collected and the end came He had postponed it four years.

In due time there will be anothe Bank in Mound Bayou. Auready the people are asking Banks to build a new one on the glorious ruins of the old one. The Bank of Mound Bayou is but one among more than a hundred in the State of Mississippi that have fallen before the new banking law and the Bank of Mound Bayou more nearly stood the test of the law than any that fell and even successful bankers doubt that it should have fallen at all.

There will be another Masonic Benefit Association in the State of Mississippi. The name of course will be changed and rules and regulations necessarily altered, but the Masons will care for the wives and childre of those fallen on the walls. Charle Banks will lend it the force of hi amazing resourcefulness. The Mason will call him to the place he hel against the common foe, because of a black men he is the most capable fo the task.

Upon winding up affairs of the M B. A. the receiver, Fon. S. D. McNai made a speech to the force. He sai he found not even the slightest irregularities in the accounts or management of the office and the office handled approximately $150,000 a year. Mr. Banks, he declared, had done better under the circumstances than anybody else had done and ough to be praised, and not blamed.

Mound Bayou Safe.

Those who have invested in the great enterprises of Mound Bayou need exercise; no impatience. Every enterprise here is a solid enterprise No industry is on paper. The groun upon which Mound Bayou is built i solid ground. Investors will find tha their investments are safe, and no only have the investors had a part i building the foundation of the presen great promise of the Negro's chiefes enterprise, but the returns on their investments in due time will be realized as conditions settled and as industry and business are allowed tha freedom necessary to their development. Investigation shows that patience and confidence are alone necessary to restore every undertaking here to its normal life.

In the meantime, surrounded and supported by Isaic T. Montgomery, the founder; B. H. Creswell, the mayor, and Dr. W. P. Kyle, president of the Bank of Mound Bayou, and every strong citizen, Charles Banks is at home to his friends and the world; his eye is as bright as a star; his hand on the wheel and his ear open to every sound that brings news of his Mound Bayou, for which he risked all, and for which in this temporary defeat, he has won the big bictory of his engaging career.

It was Banks who built the $100,000 oil mill. It was Banks who made the $10,000 ice plant a fact. His genius formed the great mercantile company here in which he is the largest stockholder. The bottling works and steam laundry are children of his brain, and the beautiful Carnegie library that decorates the town is the result of his sleepless activity. As he has brought triumphs, so he has become the bearer of all the burdens. Critics and fault fault finders aim their arrows at his head. The mistakes of the community are laid at his door and the shortcomings of others are added to his great responsibility. Howbeit, he is a big man, bears a smile as deep as the Mississippi river and hates dodging. He knows how to take his medicine.

And Mound Bayou, nestling in long cotton and high corn, smiles that the future is so bright; that Booker T. still asks about its engaging people, and that the wonderful French are said to be mobilizing 50,000 gallant Africans to stand against the charging cohorts of the savage Kaiser.

MILLION DOLLAR TOWN IN OKLA.

Boley, a Town Built by and for Negroes, Founded Ten Years Ago.

HAS POPULATION OF 2500

$49,000 Bonded Indebtedness Is Secured by City and County Property with Taxable Value of $1,250,000.

NEW AND MODERN BUILDINGS

Eight-room School Building, Nineteen Teachers, 890 Scholars—Seven Religious Denominations with Eight Churches—Municipal Light and Power Plant—$35,000 Masonic Temple.

7/17/16

Special to THE NEW YORK AGE.

Boley, Okla., July 14.—To prove that the Negro, as a race, is incapable of self-government, critics who arbitrarily assume to serve as accusers, judge and jury for the race, point to that revolution-torn black republic, Haiti. If they would but turn their eyes to the southwest here in the United States, they would behold the existence, in one state alone—Oklahoma, of eight exclusively Negro towns that are conclusively demonstrating the Negro's growing capacity for self-government, as a town builder and community conservator.

Boley, Taft, Red Bird, Langston, Tatums, Brooksville, Vernon and Rentiesville—all in the state of Oklahoma—testify to the innate peacefulness and acquired constructiveness of the American Negro. Boley, with its 2,500 Negroes within the town's corporate limits, and its 10,000 Negro population within a radius of ten miles, which population is a direct contributant to the municipality, is the largest of the eight exclusively Negro towns in Oklahoma, and the largest exclusively Negro town in the Western Hemisphere, being three times the size of Mound Bayou, Miss.

A Town of Staple Orderly Government.

I spent several days here in the interest of that constructive organization which Dr. Booker T. Washington inspired into existence—the National Negro Business League, investigating this town whose stability, orderly government, carefully and conservatively administered, presents the conclusive proof that the American Negro is capable of self-government.

In Haiti a standing army, whose maintenance imposes a burdensome tax upon the country's limited resources, preserves the life of the republic while at the same time jeoparizing its peace with continual disastrous and bloody revolutions. In Boley no soldiery patrols its borders or its streets, or guards its regularly elected officials. Boley is governed not by force of arms, but by the minions of Peace. Boley has orderly conducted elections for the selection of governing officials, but no armed revolutions to enthrone an executive. Boley's taxes are assessed by and with the consent of the governed, and not by arbitrary officials who "assumed" office and power by force. Boley typifies the constructive propaganda of Booker T. Washington rather than the destructive intrigues which foment in the black republic just beyond the United States' southern sea-kissed border. Boley represents Negro advancement, not Negro retardence.

Boley, at first, was but a mere camp of Negro railroad construction hands. It was founded by T. M. Haynes, a Negro, who is still living and a valued citizen of the town, to witness the fruition of his altruistic plans. It was incorporated and chartered as a municipality in 1904. The town, comprising 260 acres, laid out with broad streets crossing at right angles, has a bonded indebtedness of but $32,000, and a School Distr bonded indebtedness of $17,000. This bonded indebtedness is secured by property within Boley with taxable value of $450,000, and by property within the county with taxable value of $800,000, making a total of $1,250,000 in property to secure the payment of $49,000 bonded indebtedness.

The Million Dollar Black City.

This little town in the far southwest has been called the "Million Dollar Black City," because the volume of business transacted here in 1913 reached a million dollars, and because the value of the city's realty and the amount its citizens have invested in business totals a million dollars.

In 1913 the Negro retail merchants of Boley handled $192,000 worth of business; her Negro farmers handled $250,000 worth of food stuff and live

(Continued on Page 5.)

stock; her Negro cotton buyers bought $325,000 worth of cotton; her local Post Office did $252,300 worth of business, $250,000 of which represented money passing through the Money Order Department. The one bank there, capitalized, controlled and conducted by Negroes, had individual deposits, at the close of business, December 31, 1913, amounting to $55,000. This financial showing for a community composed exclusively of people but half a century removed from slavery—from a period when the right to acquire and hold property was denied them both by public sentiment and expressed law, is a splendid attestation to the thrift and industry of the Negro.

The residences, public buildings and stores of Boley compare most favorably with those of any town of like size whose controlling population is made up of the dominant race. In fact there are many older towns, throughout the West, of even greater size whose residences, public buildings and stores do not compare with Boley's.

There is a popular belief existing, which I too shared before coming here and seeing for myself, that Boley is but a mere settlement of incapable imitators, ignorant law-makers like some who obstruded themselves into public office in the South during the reconstruction period; that a few log huts and makeshift houses, and stores, that are stores only in name, constitutes Boley; that the municipal government is a farce omedy. The town is well illuminated with electric lights furnished by ie town's modern electric light and ower plant; the main street, in its ntire length, has granolithic sidewalks; the stores are substantially built, well stocked and orderly conducted; the church edifices are very creditable indeed; the town's bank building and masonic temple are the equal of any found in any town of like size, both being brick, and masonic temple being a $35,000 structure. Boley is typically a modern small American town.

The public school building is a modern, two-story, eight-room brick of chaste design. In addition to it the town has a good denominational school. Nineteen teachers are employed to instruct 890 Negro pupils. Eight churches conserve the religious interests of the community, two Baptist, and one each M. E., A. M. E., C. M. E., Congregational, Catholic and Church of God.

A Reading Community.

The people of Boley subscribe for 2,100 monthly publications, 1,800 weekly publications and 150 daily publications. This number of publications subscribed for by a community of 2,500 souls indicates that Boley is a reading community that keeps informed regarding what is current in the great outside world. It is doubtful whether any other town of 2,500 inhabitants in the United States can boast of subscribing for a total of 4,050 publications. The town maintains seven physicians, two dentists, six lawyers and fifty-one merchants, the latter having a total of over $400,000 invested in their business. The town has a federal form of government, the mayor and other officials being elected by popular vote, and the officials are a very intelligent and unselfish set of men who seem to be impressed with the belief that Boley is called upon to prove the race's capacity for self-government.

On arriving at Boley, and I ought to dignify it with the title of city because of the highly intelligent manner in which its laws and ordinances are administered, the visitor alights at a railroad station whose station master, ticket agent, express agent, telegraph operator, and "baggage smasher" are all Negroes. One finds here the well conducted hotel is presided over by a Negro boniface; that the telephone exchange is a Negro conducted institution; that the electric light and power plant is wholly in the hands of Negroes.

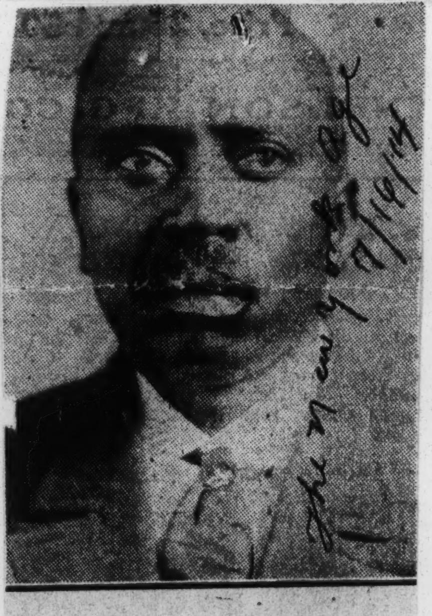
There is no race discrimination in Boley. Although the town is an exclusively Negro owned and populated town, when a white man puts in appearance here, as is frequently the case, on business errands, he is not subjected to the discrimination and segregation to which Negroes are not infrequently subjected in white-governed communities. In this Negro town a white man is accorded that indiscriminate, generous hospitality which must impress him with the Negro's sincere desire to return good for evil.

In Boley the spirit of harmony is so manifest, the simple life is so prevalent, with just a touch of the strenuous, as to make one feel perfectly contented in this black Arcadia, and yet conscious that he is in a real, live, wide-awake town.

Little has been said or written about this town, the largest Negro municipality in America. Its citizens are too busy making it an exemplification of race progress and race unity to advertise to the world, in bold-face type, that Boley is on the map.

New York Age

M. J. JONES
City Attorney, Boley, Okla.



The New York Age 7/16/14

DR. C. B. POWELL
Mayor, Boley, Okla.

New Monrovia, a suburb of West Palm Peach, Florida, is the name of a new and "exclusive colored city." Already they have begun the publication of a weekly paper, The New Monrovia Journal, which is well edited and carries much interesting news of this thriving settlement.

The New York Age

T. M. HAYNES
Founder Boley, Okla.

LOVEJOY, ILLINOIS.

A Negro Village About Three Miles From St. Louis—Progressing—A Fine $20,000 School Is Being Erected—Progressive Party Is in Power.

The Forum 10-11-13

Lovejoy (Brooklyn) is a unique village. It is about one mile from E. St. Louis, Ill., proper, and about three miles from St. Louis, Mo. Surrounded by nearly 1,000,000 persons and all manner and kinds of factories. For seventy-five years this village has been governed and controlled by negroes, but until here of late the officers have not been progressive and industrious; for thirty years the heads have been unscrupulous politicians, robbers and sports, so they say. The village also, up until recently, has been at the mercy of the floods—once the town was flooded and all of these hindrances had a tendency to alienate the colored people from the village. But, for the past ten years, a more progressive young set has been gradually gaining the control of affairs and striving to make the village a much more desirable place in which to pitch your tent.

The village has a population of about 22,000 souls, three-quarters of whom are colored, if not four-fifths. Among the young men who are leaders may be mentioned Dr. E. Williams, Wm. Terry, B. A.

Hughes, Police Judge R. J. Cole, mayor, and the other officers; Dr. Thomas.

The new school building will be a credit to St. Clair county Negroes, and especially the village of Brooklyn. It is a two-story, pressed brick, six-room modern convenience—about 300 pupils, $20,000, five or six-teachers limit

s ninth grade. C. P. Jones, the vealthiest man in the village, is rincipal, and has been for thirty-hree years.

J. F. Price, barber, is a truant officer; W. H. Brown, barber, is a health officer and makes some recommendations to the board.

Come to Brooklyn.

Persons wishing a nice negro community, where plenty of work abounds, should come to Lovejoy (Brooklyn), and buy property—a fine place—a colored lady is the postmistress, Mrs. Arthur. Lookout for Officer S——; he is going to get murdered (married), they say. B. A. H. J—— is O. K. You can't lose the chief.

THRIFTY NEGRO TOWNS IN THE VA. MOUNTAIN

Special to The New Yo

Hot Springs, Va., July 21.—Five miles north of Hot Springs, perched on the mountain side, is a settlement called Blacksburg, with a population of about 150, 95 per cent. of whom are Negroes.

A neat church is well attended, Sunday school is conducted, and nearby is a public school house, well lighted and ventilated and furnished with modern desks and blackboards, with accommodations for fifty pupils.

Instead of the one-room cabins, one finds here neat, well constructed, lighted and ventilated cottages of from three to eight rooms. Many of these homes are well furnished and neatly kept. The houses are built on plots of from one to eight acres, with shade and fruit trees and flowers, and vegetable gardens, poultry yards, with cows and horses.

Two miles south of Hot Springs is Ashwood, another Negro community, of perhaps [illegible] people, where evidences of thrift and industry are everywhere to be seen. It is an inspiration to visit some of these country homes and enjoy the genuine old Virginia hospitality dispensed by these people of the mountains and see their musical instruments, books magazines and newspapers, evidences of progress and enlightenment.

Towns – 1914

The Afro American Ledger

I have been to Renestville, Okla. and this is a place of our people, and it would do well for [illegible] hear me tell you about it. I will not attempt to say the cussing things I have in mind until I tell you about this place Rentiesville is well organized with good people in it. They have Odd Fellows, Knights of Pythias, United Brothers of Friendship, Masons. Each of these organizations have their female branches.

Rentiesville is about 9 years old It was founded by Rev. N. A. Robinson, pastor of the Baptist Church. It has a population of 500, surrounded by splendid farm-lands and with in four miles of coal belt owned by members of the race. If you ride 17 milles from that place on the M. K. & B. road you will reach Muskogee.

It is inspiring to go to this place and see four grocery stores owned by F. P. Brinson, C. W. Iverson, J. P. Painter, J. H. Reeves and John Hawkins respectively. Dave McCowan and J H. Reeves, each have meat markets. Then there are the two restaurants in town operated by C. W. Iverson and Mrs. Hiner. Two gin and griss mills, one owned and operated by F. P. Brinson and W. M. Ball, while the other one is operated by H. O. Frederick and sons, who also own a saw mill. Chas. Murphy and Mr. Goodwin are the blacksmiths of the town.

Now all of this is good, but let me tell you they have not neglected to look after the education of their children. The finest building in the town in the public school. This has been the main thing, and they have secured for the school the best teachers to be found in the state. The building cost $8,000, and I was proud to find at the head of the school Prof. Wm. A. Hill. He is an old educator, and has been in the work for a long time. The other teachers are Mrs. Wm. A. Hill, Mrs. W. B. Jones, Mrs. B. C. Franklin. I shook hands with the teachers, and then shook hands with the pair of doctors in the town, J. J. Lowe, M.D. and Wm. A. Durham.

Towns operated and owned by our people, of course open new positions, especially where there are iron horses passing through the town. This is the case in Rentiesville, hence it is not surprising to find J. H. Higgs, the ticket and freight agent. He is in full charge of affair, and it was fine it see that, I wanted to shout, but I was there inspecting and could not do so.

I went to the town and met the postmaster, Hon. B. C. Franklin, who is also a lawyer, and one of the best in the state. His wife makes the hats for ladies there, and is indeed a busy woman.

Of course the word of God is being preached in town from four churches. There is also an undertaker to take charge of your body and plant it in the earth when you pass away, and he is the president of the local business league. I hope that the League may live and that he will not have to plant it in the ground.

One of the busiest men in the town is Prof. W. B Jones, who went out there but a short time ago from Arkansas, and he is a busy man in the city, and busy in the state. He is an educator of the first start and in this he has the confidence of the people, and his opinion is not only sought, but is highly respected. He is principal of the public school in Chicotah, which is just four miles away. He has a lovely home and a queen in it. I shall not take time to tell you all the places I have been in Oklahoma and all the people I have met while in that part of the word. I am now in Mississippi and I have a little cussing which I desire to do while I am in this part of the world, and if you will only listen I will let you have it

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4-4-14

The receipts of the Post Office at Mound Bayou, Miss., over which a colored woman presides as postmistress, and which town is an exclusive Negro town, indicates the progress of the town. From March, 1912, to March, 1913, the receipts were as follows: Money orders issued, $67,776.22; Fees $539.40; On Postal Account, $3,607.44; Sale of Stamps, $3,337.51; From Newspapers, $41.88; Box Rents, $227.50. In the Postal Savings Department certificates to the amount of $343 were issued. The Postoffice receipts of a city or town indicates how live it is. This being accepted as a criterion, the Negro town of Mound Bayou is very much alive.

Odd Fellow City Lots

The Atlanta Independent 3-4-14

If it is a good investment you are looking for, invest your money in Odd Fellow City, situated on the Macon, Dublin and Savannah Railroad, just a few miles from Macon, Ga. Permanent improvements have been started in this city already. The Odd Fellows have a One Hundred Fifty acre tract of land to be put into cultivation. This land joins Odd Fellow City. Every Odd Fellow in the State of Georgia should become the possessor of one of these lots.

You can become an owner of a Lot in Odd Fellow City for the sum of Fifty Dollars, Ten Dollars cash, the remainder in weekly installments of One Dollar a week, for forty consecutive weeks, then you get your deeds, and you are the possessor of a Lot in one of the greatest Towns in the Southland for the Negro.

You will lose a great opportunity in not getting in touch with me at once. Call or write

Ross Real Estate & Renting

S. W. ROSS, Manager

Official Agents of Fulton County.

Room 200 Odd Fellows Building.

Bell Phone Ivy 5511-L.

COLORED MEN
Wanted to prepare as Sleeping Car and Train Porters.
No experience necessary. Positions pay $65 to $100 a month. Steady work. Atlanta roads. Passes and uniforms furnished when necessary. Write now.
I. Ry. C. I., Dept. 21, Indianapolis, Ind.

TRIPOD PAINT CO.
Manufacturers
GLASS, WALL PAPER AND PAINTS
Store and Office 37 and 39 N. Pryor Street, Factory, Forsyth Street,
ATLANTA, GA.
Write for Color Card and Price List

LEROY, GEORGIA.

Leroy, Ga., is situated 37 miles from Augusta, directly on the line of the Brinson railroad which connects at St. Clair, Ga. with the Georgia and Florida railway. It is named for Col. Leroy H. Hudson, a member of the famous Hudson family of Burke county. Col. Hudson is a son of the late William Hudson, and is the manager of the large estate left by his father, who was one of the largest planters in his section. Although a young man, he has shown rare business ability, and the word of Leroy Hudson is as good as his bound wherever he is known. The Hudson plantation is one of a number of large farming properties owned by colored people in this section of the state, and consists of very fertile and productive land which would bring top prices if put on the market. It is in a section such as this, and a settlement exclusively colored that the town of Leroy is situated. Near is the Boggs Academy and Presbyteriian church, conducted by Rev. John L. Phelps, while the Walker Grove Baptist church of which Rev H. C. Caswell is pastor is also in easy distance. There is every indication on all sides of the thrift and prosperity of the people, and the visitor is at once impressed that a neighbohood such as this is a good place in which to live in the near future, lots in the town of Leroy will be placed on sale, the purpose being to attract purchasers from among the thrifty element of the race. Public announcement of the date and other information will be given in due season. Meantime, any further information may be secured by addressing Col. L. H. Hudson, R. F. D., 1. Keysville, Ga.

6

A PROGRESSIVE COLORED TOWN

The Journal & Guide 5-9-'14

Negroes Have Splendid Homes, Schools And Churches In Oberlin

A SUBURB OF RALEIGH, N. C.

A Community In Which Twelve Hundred Colored People Are Solving Their Problems

Oberlin, N.C.

(By T. L. McCoy.)

Raleigh, N. C., May 4.—At the invitation of Captain James E. Hamlin, we hopped into his rubber-tired buggy behind his slick black horse whose record at the last State Fair was 2:44. To Oberlin we were bound, and in less time than it takes to tell the story, we were within the confines of this unique little village of nearly 12 hundred inhabitants. The first thing that attracted our attention was the neat looking buildings, artistically painted, and the front yards were planted with rose bushes and other decorating shrubbery. Quite a number of the residences and stores were lighted by electricity. We saf the neat looking churches, one known as the M. E. Methodist Church, pastored by Rev. J[illegible] Robins. This church is a h[illegible]some looking brick structure [illegible] cost $5,100 and is completely [illegible]nished with all modern chu[illegible] furnishings. The next church is known as the First Baptist Church of Oberlin, and is pastored by Rev. S. H. Weatherspoon. This church is neatly painted and lighted by electricity. Both of these churches, we are told, are well attended by the villagers and people from elsewhere.

We visited the Oberlin public graded school. Here we met Prof. T. F. Williams, principal, and Misses Mildred Graves, Minnie Flagg, Bell Manley and Mrs. Annie O'Kelley, his assistants. The enrollment of pupils is nearly three hundred. The pupils are aught from the first to the eighth grade. This school is admirably ocated and the building and grounds are well kept. The children are devoted to their teachers and we were well pleased with the neat appearance of the children. It was recess hour when we reached the school and we enjoyed looking on so many robust boys scattered over the school campus, some playing ball, while others enjoyed playing marbles and other sports indulged in by boys. The girls were playing "hide and seek" and many other innocent amusements, such as only girls can play to the delight of lookers-on. We judge from what we saw in a general way, that the Oberlin children are under the care of efficient teachers and that some shining lights will spring up from among this bunch of colored youths.

Captain Hamlin took a great deal of pride in pointing out to us homes of the villagers whom he is acquainted with, some of whom are Mr. John T. Turner, the well known shoe merchant of Raleigh, as well as styled the Mayor of Oberlin; Mr. S. J. Webb, bricklayer; Prof. H. S. Smith, teacher, real estate dealer and broker; Drs. N. F. Roberts and T. J. Thornton, each enjoys a lucrative practice; Mr. Willis Graves, bricklayer; Mrs. A. E. Dunston, L. T. Smith, J. S. Morgan, A. L. Haywood, Willis Haywood, Anderson Person, John Sears, Robert Turner, William Turner, Henry Covington, Ed. Walker, Jas. Shepherd, merchant; Geo. Thompson, Miss Lizzie Henegan, W. J. Grant, A. L. Hartsfield, merchant; Jerry Hall, Tony Halloway, Henry Andrews and Mumford Heights. A barber shop and a number of small grocery stores adds to the town-like looks of this coming village, located just outside the corporate limits of Raleigh on the northwest and is touched by the electric street car railway running to the Fair Grounds.

CLEARVIEW, A PROGRESSIV TOWN IN OKLAHOMA, WORTHY OF NOTE.

This is a Showing of Enterprises of City—Interesting Items.

Clearview, Okla., June 17.—Clearview, so said, has a population of nearly 500. Educational facilities good. Clearview has a commodious school house. Four teachers compose the staff with Mrs. J. E. Thompson as principal. Churches: A. M. E., C. M. E., Baptist, Christian and Holiness. Business: Clothing, groceries, dru shoemaker, restaurant, ice cream pa lors, blachsmiths, etc. The princip feature of the occupation followed he is farming. The people live in co fortable homes, where they seek r from after a day spent on the fa hoeing cotton, corn and oats a wheat. The farmers prayed and lon ed for rain and the Lord answere their humble petition with a goo shower, thereby cheering their hear with the prospect of a bountiful ha vest. Everything here about is co ored: Depot agent and postmaste The citizens have turned out in mass to celebrate the 51st anniversary their freedom from bondage life the city park. An enjoyable time the are having meeting and the chattin over the past and the possibilities some day building up a magnificent town. The need of Clearview is the investment of capital here. Men of wealth are needed to come and foster some enterprise that will give employment to many, thereby having a weekly pay rool. Several canning factories could be established here profitably. Trucking on a large scale would be beneficial. A cheese factory would add greatly to the wealth of some big hearted individuals. Here is a good field for activity in the building up of racial enterprises. Come, ye investors and enrich thyself. Come and view the field. Unselfish individuals are needed to boost and not knock this Negro town. Individuals and well [illegible] do [illegible] to separate themselves from other folks, can find here a haven of rest and consolation and isolation from white folks. Services will be held Lord's Day at the school house by the Church of Christ. Elder L. C. Davis of Boley will preach assisted by Elder A. C. Chicken. Rev. Hudson of the C. M. E. church will have a rally Sunday at 3 p. m. The A. M. E. church will hold their regular services Sunday, Rev. Brooks, pastor. Subscribe for the Dallas Express, the best paper published by the Negro in the United States. Clean, ably edited and printed and altogether newsy. The Christians to the number of 20 organized for the enhancing of the gospel of Christ, May 18th. The Church of Christ welcomes you Lord's Day, June 21st at the school house at 11 a. m. and 4 p. m. Services at the Baptist church Sunday was very well attended at both services. Rev. M. C. Claiborne, the pastor, will leave for Weleetka, Okla., where he will conduct services next Sunday. Rev. J. H. Hogan is on the sick list. He got overheated while farming last week. Father White is still active in church affairs and attends every service of the church regularly.

THE COLORED MAN'S TOWN.

(Charlotte, N. C., Observer.)

In Winston-Salem what is commonly known as the segregation problem seems to be solving itself by voluntary action of the colored people and in a very simple manner. From an editorial in The Journal we gather that the colored population is flocking to a suburb of their own creation. It is called Columbia Heights. Of the homes of these colored people The Journal says: "The houses are painted, and flowers, grass and shrubbery are growing in the yards. They are industrious and own the homes. One for instance lives in a splendid house which would be a credit to Winston-Salem." One of the residents of Columbia Heights is a contractor, "having learned all he knows about the business in the Slater State Normal School." Another of the residents had just started building a sanatorium in the town for the benefit of the colored race. This is an eminently encouraging report and should be an inspiration to the colored citizens of other municipalities. The Journal suggests that the board of aldermen give the people of Columbia Heights sewerage and paved streets, and The Observer has no doubt that

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The RALEIGH

5-7-14

RALEIGH, N. C.—Capt. James E. Hamlin took THE AGE correspondent out in his rubber tired buggy, behind his fast black horse, to Oberlin, a unique little village of nearly twelve hundred inhabitants. The neat looking buildings are artistically painted, and the front yards planted with rose bushes and other shrubberies. A number of the residences and stores are lighted by electricity. The M. E. Church is pastored by the Rev. J. C. Robins. This church is a handsome brick structure that cost $5,100. It is completely fitted with all modern church furnishings. The First Baptist Church of Oberlin is pastored by the Rev. H. S. Weatherspoon. It is neatly painted and lighted by electricity.

The Oberlin public graded school, Prof. T. F. Williams, principal, and Misses Mildren Graves, Minnie Flagg, Bell Monley and Mrs. Annie O'Kelley, assistants. The enrollment of pupils is nearly three hundred. This school is admirably located and the building and grounds are well kept.

Captain Hamlni pointed out homes of John T. Turner, shoe merchant of Raleigh, styled the Mayor of Oberlin; S. J. Webb, bricklayer; Prof. H. S. Smith, teacher, real estate dealer and broker; Dr. N. F. Roberts, Dr. F. J. Thornton, Willis Graves, bricklayer; Mrs. A. E. Dunston, L. T. Smith, J. S. Morgan, A. L. Haywood, Willis Haywood, Anderson Person, John Sears, Robert Turner, William Turner, —— Turner, Henry Covington, Ed. Walker, James Shepherd, merchant; George Thompson, Miss Lizzie Henegan, W. J. Grant, A. L. Hartsford, merchant; Jerry Hall, Tony Holloway, Henry Andrews and Mumford Heights.

This coming village is located just outside the corporate limits of Raleigh, on the northwest, and is touched by the electric street railway runing to the fair

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One Negro section in Charlotte is called [illegible] and another is called Fairview. In each of these [illegible] there [illegible] school for Negro children. In the Negro neighborhood about the Brooklyn school, where vice or prostitution has been segregated and in the neighborhood near the Fairview school the city builds its crematory where all the filth of the city must send its fumes into the nostrils of the Negro school children and into the homes of the people of that community forever. An attempt was made to build this crematory near white property but a protest went up and the place of location was changed. You say Negroes should protest. What would a protest from Negroes amount to? The local newspapers have said if the Negroes protest the city government will fight them in the courts. We all know what would be the outcome of such a fight. The white people segregate Negroes and then segregate all of their filth into the same place with the Negroes, and worst of all they then find fault with the Negro for opposing segregation. The white man segregates the Negro and then the sewer which flows from his back yard he turns loose in the Negroes front yard.

The Richmond Planet

Hon. Ralph W. Tyler Here.

3-14-14,

Hon. Ralph W. Tyler, ex-Auditor of the Navy, arrived in the city last Thursday at about 12 o'clock. Mr. Tyler is the Organizer of the National Business League. R. E. Jones, M. D., founder of Jonesboro, had charge of the arrangements. Messrs. John Mitchell, Jr., Floyd Ross and E. R. Giles were designated to meet Mr. Tyler. They performed the service.

The distinguished guest spoke at the Richmond Beneficial Hall last Thursday night. Dr. R. E. Jones was master of ceremonies and John Mitchell, Jr. introduced the visitor. He delivered a fine address and his remarks made a profound impression. At their conclusion, the party retired to Miller's Hotel where luncheon was served.

WHITES USE DYNAMITE ON NEGRO VILLAGE

Crowd in Mitchell Blows Up Store and Fires a House While Rifles Bark.

Constitution 8-24-

Moultrie, Ga., August 23.—(Special.) From Mitchell county come tidings of the destruction with dynamite of the negro village of Greenough by a crowd of infuriated white men.

Trouble first occurred between Bradley brothers, the negro proprietors of the leading store of Greenough, and John Davis and brother, two young white men of the community, and grew out of the failure of one of the Bradleys to return some money that had been advanced him.

John Davis was assaulted by one of the Bradleys and knocked senseless with a piece of scantling. The white boys returned home and the Bradleys left the village.

At night a mob of white men assembled in the community and armed with dynamite and such artillery as was available visited the negro village, planted the dynamite under the Bradleys' store and blew it into atoms, set fire to other stores, fired into the negro residence sections and received return fire from armed negroes for a time.

The shooting seems to have been ineffective, as no deaths are reported. Fear of a further outbreak has been felt by the non-combatants of the community, but the officers now appear to have the matter in hand. The Bradleys are still at large.

Towns - 1914

7

THE MIDDLE GEORGIA LAND COMPANY

3-14-14

The Atlanta Independent

A CORPORATION ORGANIZED UNDER THE LAW OF GEORGIA, OFFER EXCLUSIVELY TO THE MEMBERS OF THE GRAND UNITED ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS, OF AMERICA, JURISDICTION OF GEORGIA, CITY LOTS IN THE NEW CITY OF ODD FELLOW CITY.

This City has been laid off out of a large tract of fine land of 400 acres, in Twiggs County, Georgia, half-way between the towns of Jeffersonville and Danville. It is within ten miles of the geographical center of the State.

"The Middle Georgia Land Company has made a fee-simple deed to 150 acres of this tract adjoining ODD FELLOW CITY to the District Grand Lodge, G. U. O. O. F., No. 18, Jurisdiction of Georgia, to be used for the benefit of this Order. Later 131 acres will be deeded to said District Grand Lodge for the uses. It is the purpose of the District Grand Lodge to utilize this land in such a way as to be of the greatest possible benefit to the members, most probably as an Industrial Farm and School for colored people."

At present Georgia has no sufficient Industrial Farm and School, exclusively for Colored people.

The District Grand Lodge proposes to provide such an Institution for our people.

The Executive Board can conceive of no greater or more important work. It will be a privilege, not less than a duty, to help establish such an Institution.

This is the first time in the history of the Colored race, in Georgia, that they have undertaken to build a city, exclusively for themselves and for the industrial and moral uplift of their children.

To make this enterprise a success, our people must do their part in purchasing homes and establishing such business houses there as will furnish the necessary facilities and the people to carry on this contemplated work.

The Atlanta Independent, the official organ of the G. U. O. O. F., is donating its advertising space in consideration of this 281 acres. The cause and the opportunity for good to our race more than justifies The Independent in doing this.

We want good Colored people, men and women, who have the best industrial and educational and moral interest of their race in their hearts, to settle up this new city of

ODD FELLOW CITY.

The location, the climate, the soil, and all surroundings are perfect for our purpose. More than this, THE TIME HAS COME FOR US TO DO THESE THINGS. If the District Grand Lodge should never do anything else for our people, and should successfully establish an Industrial Farm and School, it will deserve the lasting gratitude of our race.

A share of stock in the Middle Georgia Land Company entitles the holder to a lot in this new city.

This new city is located on the line of the Macon, Dublin and Savannah Railroad, about 28 miles southeast of Macon, Ga. Twiggs County is a fertile and healthy section of Georgia. Its people are upright, fair and invite worthy people to come and make their homes there.

Our Brother, L. H. A. Bell, of Elberton, Ga., Deputy of the 38th Division, District of Georgia, is the sales manager for these lots.

The shares of the Middle Georgia Land Company are offered for the par value of $50.00, on terms of $10.00 cash, and $1.00 per week for 40 consecutive weeks without interest.

Brother Bell, and such assistants as he may appoint, will visit our various local Lodges, meet our brethren, and give all the desired information.

Address communications to

Middle Georgia Land Company

ELBERTON, GA.,

OR

L. H. A. BELL, Elberton, Ga.

"NE[illegible]LY" TOWN HELD NO TERROR FOR C. E. ELLIS.

Railroad Agent at Verdark, Ok., Overcame the Disadvantage of Breaking Into a Village Where "White Men Are Not Allowed."

Muskogee, Ok., June 29.—Five years ago there was a sign pasted conspicuously on a tree in the village of Verdark, a negro settlement six miles north of Muskogee, which read: "White man, let not the sun go down on you here!" Time and C. E. Ellis have changed all that and the story of the taming of a wild and vicious Negro settlement, and getting rich while doing it, is nearly a romance.

~~Five years ago C. E. Ellis made~~ application to the Missouri, Kansas & Texas Railroad for a job. There were two places open, one at Verdark and one at a small station near Parsons, Kas. Ellis was working in Louisiana and had never heard of either place. He was given his choice and selected Verdark. The railroad sent him a pass to Muskogee and here he first learned what he was to confront.

No One Stopped But Railroad Agent.

"No white man stopped at Verdark," the sign read. He passed on through. No man passed through the region surrounding unless he was well armed, unless he was a stranger. The Negroes were the former slaves of aristocratic Indians and, after being freed, they seized the land of thei former masters and since the Civ War, had been in practical control a large area of which the Verd settlement was the center.

They resented the intrusion whites in any way and ordinaril things with a high hand. Th white man who ever remained place longer than a few minu the railroad agent. He s left the station building, always armed and numerous bullet hol the building testified to the situ

He Couldn't Buy a "Six-Shooter."

When Ellis arrived in Muskogee, a railroad official came here personally and checked him into the new office. The old agent tipped Ellis off to what he might expect and pointed to the six-shooter he always carried. Ellis had neither a gun nor money to buy one, nor did he have money enough to get out of the place, so he remained he resigned by wire on the day he drew his first pay check, however, and the answer was to stick on the job until relieved. No relief was sent. A few months later he resigned again with the same result.

The Vardark situation was a knotty problem to the "Katy" railroad and when they got an agent there they kept him as long as he would stay.

Ellis Made 'Em Be Friendly.

Ellis lived, ate and slept in the station building. His first move was to get a negro of the better element appointed as village postmaster. This was followed by advice on planting and cultivating crops. Ellis was a natural agriculturalist. A new vista opened before the railroad agent. He extended his activities in making friends with the Negroes.

He had no security except faith. However it soon became known that the better Negroes who had rece[illegible] help would make it mighty uncomfortable for any other Negro who did not repay Ellis. They knew their friend and did not propose to have him imposed upon. He had the community sentiment back of him and his debtors had to pay or they had to leave the settlement.

Now He's Married and Happy.

Then Ellis began to branch out. He bought a small piece of land and put a Negro tenant on it. He married. Verdark was redeemed. Ellis took his wife there to a cozy little home and she was welcomed almost as an old time Southern mistress among her slaves. Ellis directed the farming on his own land and was a partner with a dozen Negroes in their farming operations by backing them for seed and farming machinery.

The net result of Ellis's five years in Verdark are: A good job with the railroad as long as he wants it; a farm of fertile land; a wife and a comfortable home; $5,000 on deposit in the bank; a community redeemed, prosperous and law-abiding in which he is chief counsel, for no Negro in the Verdark settlement undertakes anything without first asking Ellis.—Kansas City Star.

Editor of the Sun:

Kindly allow me space in your valuable and most interesting columns to say a few words, in addition to this clipping I am sending you, for publication. You know my position on the Negro Weekly newspaper. I believe that not less than 80 per cent of all our organized bodies should read and subscribe to the Sun. It is worthy and merits not only the support of our different organizations, but every Negro whatever be his station. To do so is race pride and race pride will [illegible] love for one another, which will invigurate all his activities and make him pure and noble. Therefore do I with deepest feeling and thought request of you to publish this article, in a paper where comment will prove pleasing. Although the clipping was from Kansas City's Monday's Star of this week, in keeping with its life-long traditions, on Negro matters, it was silent. Of course Mr. Editor, you verily understand, newspapers like all other business, must have ready money. Advertisement does the work. Negroes contribute but little, towards this end; hence special mention of him (the Negro) is not necessary unless it be to tell what an ugly wretch he is. But whining and complaining never uplifts an individual, neither will it a race of people. The acme of success is in us. The trouble with us, as a race, is permitting men and women, yes organizations of inferior types and motives, to go around, self-organized, of course, philosophizing in long adjectives, perplexing verbs and horrible adverbs, elaborating in their nonsensical abstractions. Oh, a bit of Bible love; viz.: Proverbs, some chapter, which reads: "In all labor there is profit; but the talk of the lips tendeth only to penury." Again read: "Much is in the tillage of the poor; but there is that which is destroyed for want of judgment." Again and again, read ye self made Negro leaders, read. "The wise shall inherit glory; but shame shall be the promotion of fools." Mr. Editor, we are very proud of some of our worthy conventions; organizations, schools, and colleges, but don't you think that one particular book on Bible lore would help them, also? Oh, how Negroes love to go to white opera houses. Permit an invitation, to read again: Proverbs of Colomon—Chapters 7, 8 and 9. Do this—If the opera disease is not sanitary read the following article and if the contagion continues let me advise you to do and dwel among these people, there who will teach you—Race pride.

Respectfully,
T. W. H. WILLIAMS,
1323 Jackson Avenue,
Kansas City, Mo.

Negro town
Greenough (Mitchell Co.) Ga)
Archery Ga.
Negro Town~~s~~ founded
by Wm Decker Johnson.
[illegible] of Archery [illegible]

Los Angeles, Cal.
TIMES
OCT 8 1914

NEGRO COLONY LOSES.

The project to establish a colored colony on government land near Victorville has come to grief, according to a decision rendered by the counsel of the General Land Office and received by the local office yesterday. The opinion reverses that of former Register Buren and Receiver Robinson, in favor of Simon P. Johnson, colored, whose right was being contested by John A. Connell, a white man. Another contest involving land entered by a brother of Johnson is pending in the Washington office. It was claimed that Johnson did not do the necessary work on the land

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uffalo, N.Y.
Express
SEP 16 1914

LARGES
T NEGRO CITY.

Boley, Oklahon
Man is Not Where the White
in Evidence.

Boley (Ok.) corr. Ne
In the course of the York Sun.
Negro Business league in leeting of the
Booker T. Washington, headinkogee Dr.
of about 400, paid a visit to Boley, the largest negro city in the United States.

Boley is on the Fort Smith & Western railroad in the heart of one of the most fertile sections of Oklahoma. It was founded in 1904 by Thomas M. Haynes. There are from 10,000 to 15,000 people in around Boley. In the township of Boley there are 3,000 and in the city proper about 1,300. The country is rolling prairie land, with some sections having a good deal of timber. The city of Boley has its own electric-light plant and waterworks. The houses are substantial and attractive. The sidewalks are made of cement and in time the city will have better streets and roads. The people have shown rare pluck in making this town a successful demonstration of what negroes can do by pulling together and trying to build up a city or town which pays more than passing attention to the plain farmer.

Boley is in many ways a substantial evidence of the ambition, thrift and capacity of the negro to look out for himself if given a fair chance. Boley has one bank with a capital stock of $20,000, three cotton gins, a telephone outfit, 82 business concerns, a city hall, a chamber of commerce, a high school, which was built at a cost of $15,000, several good churches, a Masonic temple for the state of Oklahoma, worth $35,000, a public recreation park, a negro postmaster and a negro mayor.

Boley, Okla

Towns — 1915

South Dallas, Texas

16

AN EXCLUSIVE COLORED COMMUNITY.

Some Improvements Being Made by Colored People in Elite Addition in South Dallas.

Mr. and Mrs. Alex. West have completed their handsome four room cottage on Hooper street in Elite Addition.

Mr. Henry Thomas is continually improving his cozy three room cottage.

L. C. Carter and wife are very comfortably located in their cottage on Anderson avenue, Elite Addition.

Mr. and Mrs. Ruben Jones are enjoying all the comforts of home in their lovely cottage home.

John W. Stewart and Silas Hawthorn have completed and moved into their handsome four room cottages on Hooper avenue.

James Jefferson's nifty four room bungalow is almost finished.

Rose Skinner is very comfortably located in her cottage home on Hooper avenue.

Walter Clayton has finished and moved into his cottage on Hooper avenue.

George Harrison is building on Hooper avenue.

W. A. Brigham and wife, Pauline Brigham, have completed and moved in to their beautiful five room cottage at the corner of Starks and Hamilton avenue.

Tom Sulc[illegible] is building a very neat looking cottage on Starks avenue.

William Poole is about to start building on his lots on Central avenue.

J. E. Cr[illegible]on and wife are delighted with their new home which they have just finished on Hooper avenue.

Della Henry has moved into her cottage on Hooper avenue.

Robert Sims has a very comfortable cottage on Anderson avenue in which he is keeping bachelor quarters.

Marie Furlow has almost finished her beautiful cottage on Hooper avenue.

Katherine Bell has moved into her cottage home on Hooper avenue.

Walter Williams and wife are enjoying life in their pretty cottage home on Starks avenue.

John Wilson has moved into his pretty home on the corner of Hooper and Hamilton. He has a splendd garden, one of the prettiest in the Addition.

P. E. Wheeler is planning on building in the near future on his lots on Hooper avenue.

Dennis Palmer is rapidly completing his pretty home on Starks avenue.

Henry Andrews is very comfortably located in his cottage on Anderson avenue.

Lon Kirk is to build very soon on his lots on Hooper avenue.

Mrs. Mary Fuller of 313 Potter street, Gainesville, Texas, has bought for investment two lots in Elite Addition.

Mr. Chas, Brown of Winnsboro, Texas, has purchased two lots in the Elite Addition.

G. H. BOWEN BUYS VALUABLE TRACT

GETS POSSESSION OF CARTWRIGHT PLACE AT MONTGOMERY, Ga.

Negro Summer Colony

Tract Consists of 12 Acres Which will be Sub-divided into 65 Large Lots—Situated on Vernon River and 400 Feet from Street Car Line.

A real estate deal which will probably be of much benefit to the Negroes of the city is that which was consumated this week by G. H. Bowen in which he purchased the Cartwright place at Montgomery, Ga., a tract consisting of 12 acres of land and fronting on the beautiful Vernon river.

It is the purpose of Mr. Bowen to sub-divide this tract into 65 large lots and to establish an up-to-date summer colony for Negroes. This property is admirably situated for this purpose as it is but 400 feet from the Montgomery street car line and fronts on a paved road way leading to the city. The property is an unusually beautiful piece of land and has a flowing artesian well which will afford an ample supply of excellent water for the entire tract. There are on the property about 100 pecan trees, in bearing, besides a number of massive oaks and beautiful palmetto trees.

Mr. Bowen who is known as the "real estate man," is the leading Negro real estate dealer in the city and a man of unusual push and energy. It was he who "cleaned up" the lots in Central Park, a valuable sub-division about [illegible] miles on the White Bluff road, after several well known real estate men proclaimed it unsaleable and by virtue of which sales Central Park Normal and Industrial school was erected by the company owning the sub-division.

Mr. Bowen has also sold 300 lots in Cann park, a sub-division situated at the end of the Battery Park car line. Aside from these well-known sales Mr. Bowen has sold scores of improved properties in and around the city. His office in the Wage Earners bank building, is one of the finest real estate offices in the city and his renting department in which he employes several collectors to look after the hundred odd houses he has in charge, is well managed and is growing in size every month. Mr. Bowen is a director of the Wage Earners Savings Bank, the largest Negro banking institution in the country, and president of the Union Development Company.

ALLENSWORTH NEWS.

Calif.

The Western Review 3/15/15

Mr. Wallace Towns of the "4T" ranch plans to bore a well soon.

Rev. Price of Bakersfield was up and preached a most inspiring sermon last Thursday.

Arbor Day was celebrated and many new trees now add to the attractiveness of the place.

A Fanny Crosby program will be given next Sunday evening at the "Young People's Alliance."

The Allensworth Rural Water Co. let out the contract of making the new ditches last week to G. W. Archer and W. A. Wells.

Mr. K. C. Carson, a prospective buyer, visited the Colony last week from Sacramento, and was very much pleased with the prospects.

Mr. Norvin E. Powell the newly appointed postmaster, expects to move into the new post-office and take full charge about next Wednesday.

The public school will close Friday for spring vacation. Monday the teachers will leave for Fresno, where they will attend the Teachers' convention.

A program was rendered by the boys of the public school Friday afternoon. There was several visitors present. All pronounced it a grand success.

Los Angeles, Cal.
TIMES
SEP 25 1915

Blackstonian.

COLORED JURY FOR WHITE MAN.

~~Allensworth~~, Calif.

USKY VOTERS NEAR VISALIA NEEDED IN COURT.

But Investigation by Negro Justice Developed Nearly Every Man Called Owed Money to Complaining Witness so Case will be Transferred to the Next Township.

[BY DIRECT WIRE—EXCLUSIVE DISPATCH.]

VISALIA, Sept. 24.—W. H. Dodson, negro constable of Allensworth, negro colony south of here, today summoned every negro voter in Allensworth township in a vain effort to secure a jury for the trial before Oscar Overr, negro justice of the peace, of George Smith, one of the few white ranchers in the township. Smith was charged with having made insulting remarks to Mrs. C. Johnson, owner of a general store in the village of Allensworth.

After every resident of the township had been examined only eleven jury-en were left in the box. In the course of the examination it developed that every other male inhabitant of the township, numbering some 150 odd, had unpaid accounts at the Johnson store, resulting in their exclusion from the jury for cause.

Considerable excitement was occasioned in the colony when Smith was arrested after Mrs. Johnson had made complaint to the justice and today was virtually a holiday for the entire township. Colored voters who had not been summoned by Constable Dodson flocked to the village on their own initiative and there was no lack of volunteers for jury service. One by one the negro ranchers filed into the jury box, only to file out again when it developed that they were debtors of the complaining witness and therefore disqualified for service.

In view of the catholicity of credit which has been extended by Mrs. Johnson to her colored brethren of Allensworth township and the consequent inability to have her complaint adjudged by a jury of her colored peers the case will necessarily be transferred to the township of Tulare adjoining, where, it is presumed, the color line will be quite as strictly drawn on the opposite side.

ROCHESTER, N. Y.
Post Expr
AUG 1[illegible] 1915

A Community of Negro Homes.

Midway between the sandy beach at Ocean View, on the southern side of Hampton Roads, and Norfolk, a rapidly growing Southern metropolis, there has been developed, in the heart of a rich, farm-trucking region, an attractive negro community, called Titustown, in which all of the people own their own homes and not a single renter is found.

In Titustown negroes have had the opportunity of buying high-class property at a low price, building comfortable and attractive individual houses on easy terms, and living happy lives in a refined and attractive community.

It was in 1901 that a committee of ten or a dozen colored men came to Augustus T. Stroud, a white lawyer of Norfolk, who had recently graduated from college. They asked that some land should be bought and resold to negroes for home sites. The negroes had heard the summons "Move on" and sought the good offices of a Southern white man whose family had long had a deep interest in the welfare of negroes.

Men who, in the beginning, had very crude ideas of what a home should be, have gradually been led out into a finer conception of what a home can be made through persistent thrift and constant effort to improve the physical condition of the house, the yard, and the fences.

What the negroes of Titustown have done so quietly and so effectively, with the sympathetic co-operation of Mr. Stroud through a long period, can and should be repeated, with necessary modifications, of course, wherever there are large numbers of negroes who should have better housing.—"Southern Workman."

Titustown, Va.

First Negro Town in Texas Is Formed; Officials Colored

Houston, Tex.
Chronicle 17 January 1915
Texas

The proposition to incorporate Independence Heights carried at the polls yesterday by a vote of 22 to 2. The new city is unique in that its residents, with the possible exception of two or three famiies are all colored and its officers are all colored. G. O. Burgess, well known colored attorney, was chosen mayor and A. M. McCullough and S. C. Lamothe commissioners.

Independence Heights is located north of Sunset Heights and has a population of between 300 and 400. The negro residents there have always been law abiding and most of them own their homes. They have always conducted themselves in a manner such as to win the respect of white citizens residing adjacent to them and one of the governing factors in the decision to incorporate was a desire on their part to control disorderly elements from the outside. The new city is further unique in that, according to all reports, it will be the only incorporated town in Texas in which both citizenship and officials are practically all negroes.

Colony, Montgomery, Ga.—
Allensworth, Calif.
Independence Heights, Texas

TOPEKA, KAN.
CAPITAL
NOV 10 1915

NEGROES START TOWN

Opening Forest Reserves Gives Opportunity to Hutchinson Negroes.

Hutchinson, Kan., Nov. 10.—Colored people of Hutchinson and this section are planning to file on tracts of land in the forest reserve now being opened for settlement near Garden City, and plat a townsite, making a colony for colored families only.

The proposed townsite would be south of the Arkansas river, somewhere between Garden City and Syracuse. Among thos understood in the enterprise are M. B. Brooks, editor of the Hutchinson Blade, a colored newspaper; Rev. J. E. Allen, pastor of the Second Baptist church; Isaac Butler, jr., J. W. Thomas, a well-to-do colored farmer, and Tom Owens, a Hutchinson police officer.

Others in the project are G. Pennington of Garden City, Mr. Buckner of Pratt, Mr. Banks of Pretty Prairie, N. H. Jeltz of Abbyville and P. N. Phillips of Manhattan.

"We are told that a townsite can be sucured on the Santa Fe main line without much effort," said Mr. Brooks, "and that the railroad people will be pleased to take up the matter and help the project. We can secure a nice township near Garden City and in a vicinity where many hundred acres can be secured, which to our minds would be the proper place.

"Mount Bayou, Miss., Edmonson Ark., Brookville, Boley and Red Bird Ok., are all towns owned and controlled by negroes and they are conducting their affairs with the same thrift and frugality that characterizes other towns in the commercial world Let Kansas negroes get in the swim too."

Buy Two Thousand Acres For Negro Colony At Selma

advertiser
3-20-15

Special to The Advertiser.

SELMA, ALA., Mar. 19.—A movement was formally launched here tonight to organize a farming colony and town for negroes, four miles from Selma on the Southern Railway. Dr. L. L. Burwell, R. B. Hudson, and other prominent negroes are behind the movement. Two thousand acres of land bought will be sub-divided into 10 and 20 acre farms. With the last payment on eeach farm the buyer will be given a warranty deed to one of the city lots.

Arrangements will be made for a church, school and other public buildings. Local real estate men handled the deal and will supervise the carrying out of the plans.

Hutchinson, Kansas
Colony, 4 miles from Selma Ala

[illegible] Negro Town.

[illegible]m The Boston Herald.)

4/6/15
Constitution

The colored people of Baltimore, Washington and the surrounding country have started a town of their own. They formed a stock company six years ago with a capital of $200,000, and after considering many sites finally purchased a tract of land on the electric car line which connects Washington, Baltimore and Annapolis—14 miles out of Washington and [illegible] miles from Baltimore. They put in water, good streets, and are now selling building lots to their own people on easy payments.

In this village prosperous colored people are building commodious houses. They have an architect of their own. Colored mechanics do all the work. So successful seems the experiment that the colored families in Philadelphia, Indianapolis or elsewhere, which have accumulated some money, gravitate to this new community as a place of residence. They can have there things their own way, and so work out with self-respect their own destiny.

We believe this idea should be encouraged. Colored people are not allowed to take anything but second place in white communities, here or in the south. In such a community as this they will be able to secure for themselves "a place in the sun."

HONEY

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Boley, Oklahoma, is the center of a great Negro community of several thousand colored people; some of the finest farming land in the whole country may be found here in what may be called "The heart of the Creek Nation." Farm after farm, embracing a territory of many square miles, is in the hands of Negroes and Indians.

When I visited this section in the fall of 1914 the people were suffering from a shortage of forage and food crops in general; a good cotton crop had been made but the deadlock in cotton made it impossible for them to realize upon the fleecy staple; the outcome was that many were discouraged with debts while facing a famine in food supplies.

Recently I visited this section and find conditions altogether different. The cotton crop, on account of excessive rain fall, was almost a complete failure but on the other hand the farmers profiting by their condition of the year ago have diversified their crops to such a degree and the season being favorable that the country abounds with plenty. Beautiful fields of Kaffir corn, Indian corn, Milo maize, Federetta, sorghum, alfalfa and other crops were everywhere to be seen. Syrup mills were grinding the cane and making great quantities of rich syrup. To pile Osa on Pylion nature had given them a great fruit crop; peaches were being sold for a song while the girls' canning clubs were canning enough of this commodity to last for two years. The people of this section notwithstanding the cotton shortage are blessed with an abundance f the necessities of life for their land is a land "Flowing with milk and honey."

J. R. REYNOLDS.

A FINE RURAL COMMUNITY

One of the most interesting communities we have ever visited is New Zion, a settlement five miles out from Georgetown, Kentucky. Here one finds conditions almost ideal for rural life. The chief occupation, if not the only occupation of this group of 500 persons is farming. Some of them are tenants, others owners, and others farm laborers. But all seem contented with rural life and are healthy and prosperous. These people have grouped their homes on town-sized lots along the main pike and have well planned streets leading off from the main pike and others paralleling the main road for a distance of two or three town blocks. A study of these homes was most interesting and encouraging. Nearly every home was painted and fenced in, and the fences well kept and gates properly placed. The fences were either whitewashed or painted. All the outhouses, including barns, were whitewashed and secure. Upon inquiring we found that community pride caused some of the dwellers to whitewash at night by lamp-light, [illegible]n they could not find time in the daylight. [illegible] every house was screened against flies. Almost all of the houses had gutter drains, while most of them had well-laid walks from the front gate up to the front door. In some cases the walks were regulation cement walks. There was not a yard without flowers, and many of them were beautiful. Most of the homes consisted of four and five rooms, but some of them had six and seven rooms, some of which were most tastefully furnished with good rugs, carpets or matting, and substantial furniture. The meals were well prepared and attractively served. Nearly every family had a horse and buggy, and we did not find a case where the owner was in debt for these comforts.

The spirit of economy and thrift controlled the community. Almost every boy had a bank account in the Second National Bank of Lexington, Kentucky, and one of the chief sources of these bank accounts, aside from labor, was hog money. It is the custom for each child to own a pig; they do not have an organized pig club, but they get all the results.

There are two stores owned and patronized by the community. The racial identity of these people will add interest to this story; they are all colored people. There is a physician, and we were told with pride by one of the inhabitants that he was the best physician in the United States. Here was found self-respect and contentment and efficiency, which means much in community development.

The settlement is most orderly. There is no officer of the law; there is no need of one. No blind tigers are to be found in the immediate community or near by. It is a peaceful, law-abiding community.

Years ago this settlement was started by one enterprising colored man by the name of John Calvin Hamilton, who built a brick house and laid out the community. He w assisted by Primus Keene.

The Methodist Episcopal Church, with the Rev. W. H. Bloomer as pastor, administered to the spiritual needs of these people. A fair school is maintained, but efforts are being made for better school facilities.

In this community the people are free from the contaminations of city life; they are happy and they are progressive. They show the possibilities of rural life where there is co-operation in working a community ideal.

Philadelphia Public Ledger

4, August 1915

NEGRO MAYOR AND FIVE POLICEMEN SENTENCED

Brooklyn, Ill., Officials Given 14 years in Prison for Murder

BELLEVILLE, Ill., Aug. 3.—James H. Thomas, Sr., the negro Mayor of Brooklyn, Ill., a negro settlement, and five negro policemen of the town were found guilty of murder in the Circuit Court here today and sentenced to 14 years each in the penitentiary.

The men were charged with killing Robert Jackson, a policeman under a former administration. The shooting grew out of an election row.

FLORIDA HAS NEW AND PROSPEROUS CITY

The Chicago
1/13/15

(Special to the Chicago Defender.)

Jacksonville, Fla., Jan. 8.—New Monrovia, a suburb of West Palm Beach, Fla., is the name of a new and "exclusive Afro-American city." Already they have begun the publication of a weekly paper, the New Monrovia Journal, which is well edited and carries much interesting news of this thriving settlement.

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Boley, Okla.
New Zion, Ky.
5 mi. from Georgetown
Brooklyn, Ill.
New Monrovia
Fla.

Towns - 1915

13

Mr. Baughman at Boley, Okla.!

The Topeka Plaindealer

5/11/16

Through the kindness of Mr. L. L. Dolphin, Secretary of the school board, we visited the high school of Boley. This young man is a member of the firm of Dolphin and Watson, and manager of the business. He and his father own 960 acres of rich land and prospects for oil on this property is very bright. This tract of land is under cultivation and there are 30 tenants on this farm. These gentlemen own good stock and implements of every description. Mr Dolphin's home is one of the swellest in Boley, also the senior Dolphin's residence is a thing of beauty. Secretary Dolphin carried us from room to room, and the high school of Boley will compare favorably with that of any town in Oklahoma, all things considered. The Dolphin family are real doers and are doing more than their part to help the race and especially Boley.

The Elcastro Cigar Factory, a strictly Negro concern, located at Clearview, Okla., is demonstrating that if the colored man is capable and will do things as well as the other fellow, he can succeed. The proprietor, Mr. S. B. Brooks, an expert cigar maker, has been doing business for four months and makes some of the leading brands of cigars in the state of Oklahoma. He is a Spanish worker and makes high-grade cigars. Brooks' P. C. Special is a head-liner, and is winning friends for the factory; the Major Brooks' Favorite is another good seller (10c); Fireman's Heart, The Tampa Smoker, The Oklahoma Special, are among some of the brands that are making the world know that Clearview, the solely Negro town, is on the map. This factory is destined to do much for our race.

Mr. Geo. Marvin Herod, a graduate of the Deaf, Dumb and Blind Institute of Austin, Texas, class of 1906, is operating a successful broom factory at Boley, Okla., and his brooms are in great demand, all the stores of Boley are his patrons. His shipping trade is growing rapidly. The scribe called and witnessed the making of brooms by Mr. Herod and he is indeed a marvel at the trade.

Mr. C .F. Dillohunty is a successful jeweler at Boley. He carries a nice stock and is an expert workman. He owns 320 acres in North Dakota. He is a shrewd business man.

Mr. A. A. Dancy is operating grocery business at Boley. He carries a nice stock and our people are liberal toward him. The store is known as "the old soldier's grocery." By strict business methods and by treating the public right, he has built up a nice trade. He is asissted by Miss Sarah Wells.

The Fishers Hotel is located on the Main street of Boley. It is a well conducted place where you find the best of rooms and home cooking is served. The proprietress is Mrs. R. B. Owens and her husband, Mr. John Owens, whom we have known since we were mere tots, are progressive citizens. He is the city Marshall and street commissioner. They are property owners.

The Sayles Millinery on Main St., Boley, is a place where all up-to-date hats are found, as well as millinery goods of every description. The proprietress is an expert milliner and our people are liberal in their patronage. The Sayles home is a modern two-story stone building and Mr. Sayles is a successful farmer. The lady who is responsible for this excellent place is Mrs. C. E Sayles.

W. S. Madden, the naberdashe and tailor, is one of the live men a Boley. He has been in business fou years, and enjoys a large trade. Hi affairs are looked after by Mr. N. E Carr, who does first class work.

Mr. S. L. Morris is in the blacksmith and wheelwright business and has a large shop at Boley. He is doing a nice business. He does all kind of work and does it right.

Mrs. Elizabeth Mickles, a lady we've known since childhood, is in the grocery business at Boley. She has a good home, a business house, and other property. Her father was one of the veteran ministers of the Baptist church and for years wielded a great influence for good in Wharton county, Texas. We were indeed pleased to meet this excellent woman.

MASONIC TEMPLE.

This beautiful building, costing $50,000, is located at Boley. It is one of the best buildings owned by the race.

In a magnificent two-story residence, Mr. J. C. McReilly, Sr., resides. This home is presided over by a cultured little lady, who is one of the city teachers. Mr. McReilley own 340 acres of land and cultivates 450 acres. He is proprietor of the Boley Lumber Yard, which carries all kind of lumber and this gentleman has built every school house in the immediate district, which are valued at $3,000,000 and more than two-thirds of the residences at Boley were erected by Mr. McRielley. He has a stock and poultry farm on which he raises all kinds of Jersey and high-class cattle, as well as poultry of every description. Thirty-

(Continued

ALLENSWORTH LETTER.

Recent events have demonstrated beyond doubt that the Negro of California is still with the traits of his forbears, bringing to the fore the unquestionable fact that he has not as yet developed psychologically beyond the fathers of many generations back.

The efforts put forth by the Negroes of the Allensworth Colony to secure the establishment of a vocational school to be located at or near the town of Allensworth, has stirred up the ire of many of the so-called leaders among the Negroes of the State in virulent denunciations against such a project as they choose to style a "Jim Crow" institution, notwithstanding the fact that the bill was drafted by one of the most intelligent and most highly educated Negroes on the entire Coast, whose sagacity and race pride can not be questioned.

It does not seem worthy of investigation to charge the type of Negro as is: W. A. Payne, W. A. Carter, W. N. Towns, W. O. Wells, Z. M. Hindsman, W. H. Dotson, J. S. Morris, Geo. Johnson and many others, as being traitors to their race after taking such a prominent part in the organization and the creation of a colony established expressly for the benefit of the Negro race in general, and the Negro youth in particular.

When men of such caliber have banded themselves together for a common purpose, and that purpose of making Negro men and women's position in this great commonwealth more tolerable, helping to untangle the tangled skeins of Negro hardships, eliminating some of his knotty problems, and pointing out a path to freedom and manhood and have succeeded beyond a [illegible]ion, this established fact which [illegible]ttested by the many happy and [illegible]nted souls now following the pu[illegible] of happiness under their own [illegible]e and fig tree, as it were, and who are paying taxes on a larger area of land than the combined leaders and constituents of the opposition of the various communities of the State. This goes far toward setting at rest any doubts in the minds of the observing public, which of the Negroes of California are pursuing the proper course and which have demonstrated a progressiveness towards the uplift of this foundering race of ours.

Psychologically, the Negroes of this State, who have so forcibly rebelled against the movement to establish this school at Allensworth have proven themselves mere children. First for the reason they began to oppose the measure because as they said, it was a segregation measure pure and simple. After a representative of the proposed Allensworth polytechnic school had visited the localities from whence the loudest clamorings reverberated, and when such communities were presented the bill, and no fault could be found with it, even after the wisest Negroes had passed upon it and found no "joker" in it, could see nothing different from the other bills calling for appropriations for improvements for other localities where white men predominate, they shamefacedly admitted that they did not know the bill was as it is, or they would have been with it.

Many begun to work for the bill while the representative was present, but, alas, when he left town it was back to the woods for Mr. Negro. The writer personally talked with some of the most learned Negroes of this State, and from whom he secured the warmest support, and who, in several instances, voluntarily promised to personally appear before the legislative committees who would have passage upon the bill, there to urge the passage thereof, only to head a list of opposers on a written petition against its passage when the representative had gone.

I remember in particular a Negro attorney of Los Angeles who is looked upon as a peer in his chosen profession, who, in a two-hour conversation, gave me his word which I presumed was as good as his bond, that he would do all in his power to bring this school into existance. But, like some other Negroes who had not the benefit of even a common school education and in whom one would expect but little more than the "reed shaken in the wind" principles, steered in the opposite direction when the time came for his promised support. Another Negro who was an enthusiastic "rooter" for Allensworth and who lived in Oakland, was named as a committeeman of a committee of three, chosen at a mass meeting of citizens of the above-mentioned place, to draft resolutions favorable to the passage of the bill and who, by reason of his education and foresight, was selected by said committee to frame said resolution personally, which he did, but after he had finished the writing changed his mind so completely he refused to sign the article as a member of the committee and written by himself.

Negro editors and newspapermen are another type of Negro who show childishness and lack of psychological development in the race. Many of such wrote lengthy editorials against the Allensworth School Bill, having never seen it nor even saw any person who had seen it, but simply wrote to the harmony of the wailings of a lot of ranting ignoramuses who are parading under the caption of "Raceman," decrying an effort of "Allensworth to put black laws upon the statute books of the fair California," as they put it. I have never, in all of my experience, known of a newspaperman of any race whatever write editorially on a subject of which he knew absolutely nothing; of which he never made the slightest effort to gather any intelligence, although the material lay so close at hand it was procurable with almost no effort, as was practiced by certain of the Negro journalists in the State of California.

The Negro preacher has in many instances been just as eager to condemn this undertaking by the colonist of Allensworth as well as many of the cheap politicians and common loafers. Upon what position they have taken their stand I can not hope to guess, for they, unlike the other fellow mentioned in this article, could have no defense whatever in dodging behind the common cry, "Not wanting Negroes to teach my children," and "Not wanting my children to go to school where there is none but Negro children," yet he has done so and at the same time he is depending entirely upon the Negro of his respective church to accept his teachings, nor does he hesitate to let them know that he must have his salary, that he can not live without it, and he knows well the state of affairs is of such nature that he is only permitted to save the souls of black folks, for no white audience or congregation will either welcome or tolerate his presence in their churches. He who stands first for God should stand first for his people, and just how a set of ministers who can preach the uplift of the Negro and practice that which gives the world to understand that he really does not mean it, for he has such a bewildering lack of pride in them that he has no inclination whatever to see them, to say nothing of helping them, do that for themselves which would establish citizenship of the kind which makes Negro proud of the fact that he is a Negro and to do away with that element of the race who is always sidling around some white man to let him know how much he (the white man) thinks of him (the Negro).

Do away with the system of inviting white people to address you at your important meetings which is distasteful to him and destroys what respect he may have had for you. Recent white speakers in Los Angeles o Negro audiences have said enough

over

to make even an Egyptian mummy understand that we are expected to attend to our own affairs. You may howl all you want about your rights as an American citizen, but the fact remains that the other fellow is ruling the country and the more you howl the tighter he presses the screws. Who can blame him? No individual has the respect of others in greater proportion that he has for himself, and what is true of an individual is true of a nation. If the Negro only wants enterprises in which he may keep shoddy goods at exorbitant prices; cheap eating houses which are neither renowned for their service, cleanliness nor menu; barber shops into which customers should carry disinfectants for personal safety; if we are to maintain only this class of "race pride" enterprises which we demand patronage on no other pretense save that it is "colored," we may expect the direst calamities to befall us and that right early.

While in Los Angeles the writer had the honor of addressing the Ministerial Alliance (colored) on behalf of the Allensworth School. After concluding, a minister arose and gave us one of the most flattering send-offs that we have ever had as to our ability, integrity and race pride, etc., and said that any thing that we might bring before the body was worthy of its most loyal support.

Some weeks later the writer was at Hanford to address the Odd Fellows at their annual installation and banquet, and touching upon the Allensworth School, we learned that this same preacher was there and was circulating a petition against the same measure he had so warmly advocated in Los Angeles. I asked him personally why he had so suddenly decided to alternate his opinion and he said, "Well, I was told that you did not mean what you said about the school, 'being for all comers,' but was a segregation bill." "But," said I, "you told the ministers of Los Angeles that my honor was unquestioned. How could you afford to vouch for me after hearing my remarks there, then immediately give ear to what some other person said who was not supposed to know me as well as you professed to?" That remains unanswered today.

We, who have fostered the movement, are very well satisfied with the situation as it stands today, knowing that great things are not accomplished without strenuous effort and are therefore in no wise piqued at a failure to get an appropriation for the establishment of this institution at this place for many were the bills that were presented for appropriations which did not get through. Will these white men and communities cease to fight for what they want? No! Neither will we, who are now prepared to take off our coats and fight harder than ever before for the establishment of a polytechnic school at this place.

To our fellow men who have opposed us we bear no malice and have only tried to show how unreliable the Negro proves himself to be and how he denies it when the white man says so. We have been rather amused at times to see men whom we have heretofore considered learned and well balanced, run riot, pell mell into a regular stampede because a Negro community asked the State of California to establish a school there, that the community might have the benefit of the institution and the pupil have the benefit of a clean, moral, Christian settlement where the vice so prevelent in the cities and especially the Negro localities is neither willed or allowed.

The cry of Jim Crowism and school segregation raised by the opposing forces of the State has done more to hasten the dreaded segregation than the establishment of a half dozen schools of the sort proposed by Assembly Bill 299.

There is an element of Negroes in every community whose express purpose in living is to protest and oppose every thing arising of a constructive nature, then there comes the other element who do not start protestations but accept any vague report and set out to fight blindly against any thing proposed as long as it has been proposed by a Negro or a set of Negroes. We asked for $50,000.00 for the school and the cry went up too much money, but I have noticed in many of the papers of the State the editors (Negro) have been urging the Negroes to vote for the millions of dollars of bonds for highways, waterways, water rights, etc., for no other reason than the idea had been original with a white man and the Negro had either been told to, or sold to say that which the white man had thought of and wanted.

The idea most prevalent with the race as to the demonstration of his power is that he must destroy rather than construct. I read an article the other day from a former manager of the famous Jack Johnson, in which he said, "The Negro trains to give the whipping and the white man trains to receive one. Herein lies the defeat of Johnson." I do not think I ever read as great a truth in so few words. The Negro likes to tell the white man what he has got to do for him and what he is going to make them do, as he did in the case of the "Clansman" in both Los Angeles and Pasadena, but he don't seem to train himself into form to take the whipping he usually gets as he did in the above named places so as to survive and be heard from again on the same subject, to the end that his fight has done other than to establish and re-establish what a very little bit he stands for in cities and country in which he lives.

For our friends of both races we have the warmest regard and thank you for encouragement and Godspeed. We are buoyed up on the highest crest of the wave of optimism because we know you are with the movement and understand the need of demands which require a large amount of money to do large things for a large and growing population. A demand for something from which we may get benefits, and something in which we get benefits. We know we are a majority. Empty wagons make lots of noise. A few coyotes by voice appear to be legion. We are not dismayed. We congratulate ourselves on fighting clean for what we need, not fighting those who need nothing.

In the name of God and the right, we pray that Allensworth will continue to grow as ever, a people with a common purpose to press onward and upward in freedom, who hold an open door to all who wish to enter through its portals to hope and opportunity, doing the right as God gives them to see the right and acquit themselves like men, not complaining because of oppression, not complaining because of mistreatment and ostracism, but meeting the problems of life as they are, fighting out each and every man his own destiny, for lo! he has discovered there is no race problem only the problem of the development of the man within him.

SUCCESS ASSURED OF NEGRO COLONY NORTH OF SELMA

Plan For Farms and Town, Churches and Schools For Negroes

Advertiser

BEEF CATTLE SHIPPED

3-21-15

Selma Bureau
of The Advertiser
J. P. Welsh, Corr.

The huge colonization plan launched Friday by several wealthy negroes of Selma gives promise of being one of the greatest things of its kind ever put across in this section of the country. The promoters of the plan are headed by Dr. L. L. Burwell, a prominent negro physician and owner of Burwell's Infirmary. Another negro business man greatly interested in the movement, and a power in the combine, is Professor R. B. Hudson, principal of Clarke's College. Both Dr. Burwell and Professor Hudson are known in Selma for their philanthropy among the colored race, and the business and professional men of the city giving the colonization plan their hearty endorsement.

The promoters, through Halls and Smith, real estate men here, have practically closed all negotiations for about 2,000 acres of rich black prairie land four miles north of Selma. The plan is to lay out a town and cut the balance of the land into ten-acre and twenty-acre farms. The farms will be sold at the lowest possible prices and on easy terms. As soon as a purchaser has made his last payment on the farm he will be given a warranty deed to a lot in the city. However, each owner of a farm must till his farm and not give up the farming as soon as he secures his city plot. The principal aim of the promoters is to foster diversified farming among the negroes of the county and to alleviate as fa as possible the present system of "tenanting" farms belonging to white people.

School Plans Drawn.

Plans have already been drawn fo a modern school building and contract will be let just as soon as it has bee assured the promoters that the negroe will support the new movemen Churches will be built and everythin done to make the place an up to th minute city. The land is situated o the Southern Railway and on a fin pike road. Overflowing wells dot th entire 2,000 acres and the country i ideally suited to the growing of truc crops. Being only four miles from Selma and Selma's markets, the promoters point out it wil be an easy matter for the residents of the tract to bring their products into the city, where they will find a ready market. That the plan will go through is practically assured by several business men, who have been consulted by the promoters of the movement.

"The roads in the southern part of

MOUND BAYOU IN BAD STRAIGHTS.

Present Financial Difficulties and Shortness of Crops Causes City to Send For Aid—Northern Men to Help.

Mound Bayou, Miss., Dec. 31.—Word comes that this community is threatened with grave embarrassment due to the financial difficulties of Isaiah T. Montgomery, one of the most noted members of his race, founder of the community, which he started when the section was hardly more than a swamp, and at the present the largest property holder. Thomas J. Wilson, his son-in-law, is in Chicago in the interests of a plan to help tide him and incidentally, the community, over these difficulties.

Are Race Men.

Well-known men, North and South, are named as patrons of the plan to aid Montgomery, whose services to both the black and white race are freely admitted by the leading newspapers of that section. Among the other patrons of the plan, which is, briefly, a bond issue on Montgomery's entire holdings, are Stuyvesant Fish, ex-Senator Leroy Percy, Bishop Theodore Bratton of the Episcopal church, Charles Scott, formerly president of the Mississippi River Levee Association; C. P. J. Mooney, editor of the Commercial Appeal, Memphis; J. A. Hayes of Colorado, son-in-law of Jefferson Davis, and others almost as well known.

An Ex-Slave.

Isaiah T. Montgomery's remarkable character and services are at the back of these spontaneous tributes to the leading spirit of the Mound Bayou community. He was a slave of the Davis family and was the life-long friend of Jefferson Davis, president of the Confederacy. Immediately after the war he came to be the master of the estate on which he was once a slave, but only for a brief period, for the property was soon restored to the Davis family.

Not as a slave, but as leader of his race he gained his recognition. He has stood during his entire life for the principle of good relations between the white and black races. He has constantly urged his people to be honest, thrifty and, above all, law-abiding. He has especially emphasized the great advance which the race could achieve through earnest industry and economy.

He has the distinction of having been the only race member of the Mississippi constitutional convention of 1890—the body which adopted the literacy test for voting. He was a member of the committee on the franchise. And when the plan had been adopted he accepted as not taking away the franchise from his race but putting that great birth-right of American citizens on a higher plane. His speech in the convention showed him to be an orator of no mean rank, and electrified not only the members, but attracted national attention.

The present difficulties are due in the main to the stress of last year with its short crop in his section and extremely low prices for the products.

Boston Herald

March 1915

A NEGRO TOWN

The colored people of Baltimore, Washington and the surrounding country have started a town of their own. They formed a stock company six years ago with a capital of $200,000, and after considering many sites, finally purchased a tract of land on the electric car line which connects Washington, Baltimore and Annapolis —14 miles out of Washington and 26 miles from Baltimore. They put in water, good streets, and are now selling building lots to their own people on easy payments.

In this village prosperous colored people are building commodious houses. They have an architect of their own. Colored mechanics do all the work. So successful seems the experiment that the colored families in Philadelphia, Indianapolis or elsewhere, which have accumulated some money, gravitate to this new community as a place of residence. They can have there things their own way, and so work out with self-respect their own destiny.

We believe this idea should be encouraged. Colored people are not allowed to take anything but second place in white communities, here or in the South. In such a community as this they will be able to secure for themselves "a place in the sun."

Towns - 1916

Continent
Mar 9, 1916

Uplift of Negroes

On 20,000 Acres of western Kansas land, which a committee is arranging to buy from the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe railroad, about 800 negroes of the People's Civil League are planning to settle within a year. The league has membership among the negroes of Chicago, New York, Philadelphia, St. Louis, Cincinnati, Washington and several southern cities. The committee is comprised of M. B. Brooks, editor of the Hutchinson Blade, a negro newspaper; Thomas Owens and N. H. Jelitz of Hutchinson, and T. W. Gangway of Pratt, all in Kansas. The committee will hold the land until the final payments are made by each of the colonists. The railroad will give them twenty years to complete payment. Only negroes now actual farmers, or inhabitants of cities will be permitted to take the land. A townsite of 160 acres is reserved for trading purposes. The deeds to the land will require that the land be sold to no one but a negro. Only negroes can hold public office, or control, teach in, or attend the schools to be established. All church organizations to be admitted will be allotted ten acres as a site, but only one of each denomination will be admitted. Kansas already has a successful negro colony, established in Graham county nearly thirty years ago by the Union Pacific railroad. The township and the town they established is called Nicodemus, a hamlet several miles from a railroad. Most of the negroes are farmers, but a few operate shops in the town. Nearly all the negroes own their land and many have fine homes. The children attend the state agricultural college and are prosperous, advanced farmers. These negroes are more progressive than their white neighbors and make considerably greater profits on their farms. The Nicodemus residents all came from eastern cities

17

Nicodemus, Kans

Idlewild
Mich

HERALD,
GRAND RAPIDS, MICH.
OCT 22 1916

Introducing Idlewild's New Mayor, Just Elected After Exciting Race

It is some distinction to be the head porter and always dependable general utility man at the Grand Rapids Union station, where, to hold his job, one must be a veritable mine of information upon all subjects, from the exact time the 12 o'clock train departs to the most effective method of maintaining perpetual peace among the nations of the world.

And "Senator" Joe Ford has been on the job a good many years, more than a quarter of a century—and no man has ever been bold enough to gainsay that Joe has made good at the job.

But it is also a great distinction to be mayor of a live town.

Senator Joe holds that distinction, too.

Not mayor of Grand Rapids; not at all—he cheerfully allows one George P. Tilma to revel in all the glory that chief executive can get out of the mayoralty of the Furniture city—without the slightest degree of envy.

But Senator Joe is a real mayor nevertheless. And his title of mayor of Idlewild, Mich., brings him more joy and satisfaction than he could possibly derive from bossing any other city in the country.

Idlewild is a flourishing resort community in Lake county, near Baldwin, where about 1,100 acres of land has been acquired by a group of colored people, who have established an attractive resort for the recreation and rest of prominent members of the African race from Ohio, Michigan and other states. It is conceded to be the only resort for colored people in the world and has already attained distinction.

It is through Joe Ford that Idlewild has become notable and through Senator Joe and his active brethren that the resort has made such substantial progress. And the owners of summer homes there declare that the place is destined to be one of the largest resorts in Michigan.

Best Colored People Interested.

Lots have been sold to the best colored people in the country. The land has been platted into lots and laid out in streets, and already a picturesque aspect is afforded, suggesting splendid possibilities for the future.

There is a commodious club house with all modern conveniences—and a golf course and tennis course are being laid out. A number of attractive summer cottages have been built during the past summer, and permanent homes are projected, prominent colored people from all over the country being interested in the resort.

The lake is well stocked with fish and game is abundant in the surrounding forests. It is an ideal summer resort and an inviting retreat.

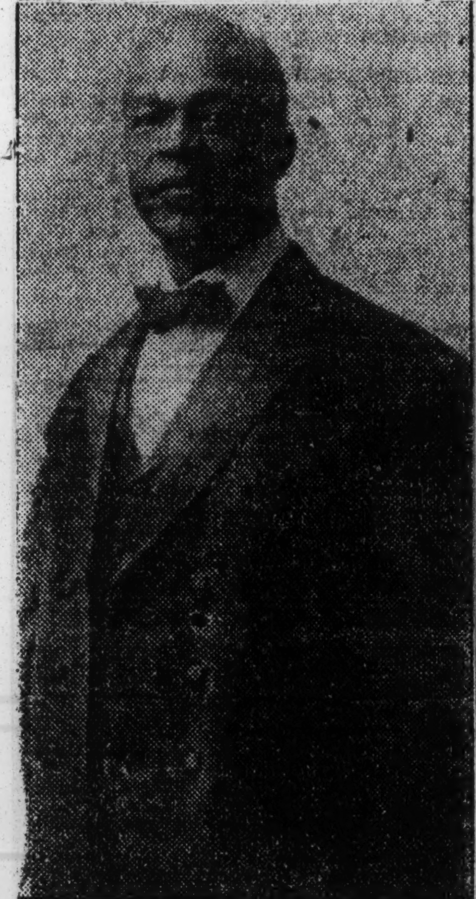
And Senator Joe Ford is the mayor of this thriving community.

The election recently was exciting—it was preceded by a campaign filled with all the thrills common to such periodical incidents.

Senator Joe was opposed by B. F. Moseley, of Chicago, leading colored attorney of that city and a legal figure who has attracted much attention in the big city by his learning and ability.

But Senator Joe won out handsomely and now rules the town with the grace and dignity the office demands—and with the wisdom that goes hand in hand with constituted authority.

Senator Joe is proud of his title—and justly so—and he is proud of Idlewild, because the town and office justify the most unbounded respect. And that he will make a wise man and able executive none dares to deny.



"SENATOR" JOE FORD.

STATE
COLUMBIA, S. C.
AUG 11 1916

LAYING OUT PLANS FOR NEGRO COLONY

Promoters Arrive at Charleston Seeking Site for Cooperative Industrial Community.

Charleston, Aug. 10.—Aboard the steamboat Attaquin, which came into port tonight, are the promoter and two members of the board of directors of a corporation which, it is stated, is seeking a site for a cooperative industrial community in the South exclusively for negroes. The corporation is said to have $1,600,000 behind it. The party said that the name of the person making the corporation possible through a handsome benefaction is not to be divulged. The party stated that it did not know yet where the colony would be established. The plans as outlined are ambitious.

NASHVILLE, TENN
Banner
AUG 24 1914

Advocates Segregation.

Special to the Banner.

Decatur, Ala., August 24.—The idea of segregating the negroes has an advocate in Mrs. Lilly Ray Nelson of the Decaturs.

Mrs. Nelson is an English woman and has lived at her country home, "Tanglewood," at Moulton Heights, a suburb of the Decaturs, for more than twenty years. When she first came to the Decaturs she knew but little about the negro. She made a special study of the question and came to the conclusion that segregation was the right thing to do. She owned a large tract of land about three miles south of the Decaturs, on the main line of the Louisville & Nashville Railroad, and here she started a negro town, some eighteen or twenty years ago. She called the town Cedar Lake. It is inhabited and controlled solely by negroes, and the town is to-day quite a large settlement and is in a flourishing condition. The negroes there have the best of order. They have stores, schools and churches, and there is a postoffice with a negro postmaster.

Besides studying the social and race questions, Mrs. Nelson has made a special study of oil and geology until now she is an authority on oil and minerals. At her home she has one of the most extensive collections of minerals and geological specimens to be found in the country. All of these specimens she has collected herself on journeys over the mountains of North Alabama.

NEWS Courier
Charleston, S. C.
AUG 24 1916

THAT NEGRO COLONY

Not Wanted in This State, Says Anderson Mail

(From the Anderson Mail.)

A Mr John T. Patrick writes the Charleston News and Courier that he is perfecting plans for a large exclusive negro colony somewhere on the coast of South Carolina. He says he is to buy up a vast tract of land, cut it up into small farms and sell only to negroes, establish a town for negroes exclusively, and build factories that will employ only negro labor. We do not know who this man Patrick is, but we understand that he represents Northern moneyed men who think there is money in the scheme.

The News and Courier rightly says no such negro colony is wanted in this State. There are already more negroes in South Carolina than is good for either the negroes or the white people; and, besides, everybody knows that negroes get along better when they are scattered out than when they are herded togehter.

Some efforts should be made to induce Mr Patrick and his associates to abandon their plans. Persuasion should be tried first.

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e First Established and Most Complete
wspaper Cutting Bureau in the World.

Union ADVERTISER
Rochester AUG 25 1916

NEGRO COLONY PLANNED.

Colored People of Rochester to Provide for Increased Negro Population.

In order that negroes coming to this city may have a suitable place to live, Rochester negroes have determined to purchase a tract and provide a negro colony near the city.

The demand for laborers has caused a large influx of negroes from the South in many northern cities and the problem of housing them has sometimes become serious. At a meeting last night at Mount Olivet Baptist Church, Rabbi Horace J. Wolff, of Temple Berith Kodesh, told of conditions that arose in Cincinnati, where the negro population was segregated in the tenderloin district under moral influence that made the young a menace to the city and to their own race.

Rev. Edward D. W. Jones, D. D., pastor of A. M. E. Zion Church, and Rev. Lee B. Brown, pastor of Mount Olivet Church, were other speakers at last night's meeting.

EVENING SUN

New York City

8 1916

A NEGRO COLONY.

From the Christian Herald.

A committee representing 800 negroes of New York, Philadelphia, Chicago St. Louis, Cincinnati, Washington and some Southern cities who have organized the People's Civic League, is negotiating with the Santa Fe Railroad for the purchase of 20,000 acres in western Kansas, on which to establish a farming colony, which is to be exclusively negro. Only negroes now farming or those in cities who wish to farm will be admitted to the colony. The deeds to the land will prevent, in perpetuity, its resale to a white man and the charter of the colony will provide that only negroes shall hold office. Negro teachers will direct the aim of the young idea in the colony. Churches will be given ten acres apiece as sites, but only one church of any denomination is to be admitted. Kansas now has a similar colony established twenty years ago—Nicodemus, in Graham county. It is a prosperous, law-abiding community.

COMMERCIAL TRIBUNE

Cincinnati, O.

JUL 31 1916

NEGROES IN CONFERENCE.

Dr. C. V. Roman of Nashville, Tenn., and Dr. Patrick Turner of Philadelphia, Pa., two colored physicians, arrived in Cincinnati yesterday for the purpose of holding a conference with John T. Patrick, negro financier of North Carolina, relating to the building of a health and industrial community for colored people of the United States. A public meeting will be held at the Colored Y. M. C. A. on West Ninth street tonight for the purpose of presenting this projec

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Tampa, Fla

AUG 11 1916

COLONY FOR NEGROES

In Form of an Industrial Community, Backed by $1,500,000

CHARLESTON, S. C., Aug. 10.—Aboard the steamboat Attaquin, which came into port tonight, are the promoter and two members of the board of directors of a corporation which, it is stated, is seeking a site for a co-operative industrial community in the South exclusively for negroes. The corporation is said to have $1,600,000 behind it. The party said that the name of the person making the corporation possible through a handsome benefaction is not to be divulged. The party stated that it did not know yet where the colony would be established. The plans as outlined are ambitious.

Cutting Bureau in the World

HOUSTON, TEXAS

UN 18 1916

NEW ADDITION FOR NEGROES PLANNED

It is planned for Houston to have a new addition strictly for negroes located within two blocks of the end of the Leeland car line, close to the Santa Fe tracks. A deal was filed in the office of County Clerk George Jones yesterday transferring two acres in the Luke Moore survey from Mr. and Mrs. O. M. Longnecker and wife to A. E. Clarkson for $4500.

The property was purchased by Mr. Clarkson as trustee for Sam Minchen, who plans to divide the land into 20 lots and sell them exclusively to negroes. Mr. Minchen is connected with the Fidelity Land Corporation, which successfully launched the Fidelity Addition on the Ship Channel, selling to negroes only.

EXPRESS

Post

Rochester, N. Y.

SEP 16 1916

PROTEST AGAINST COLONY.

Civic League Meeting Addresses Full of Objections.

Charging that a negro colony near Rochester would retard civilization, and that, taken from an economical viewpoint, it would be impracticable, objections were raised last night at a meeting of the Civic League of Colored People held in the Trinity Presbyterian church. It was also called an idea of race segregation. The objections grew out of the publicity of a plan of some negro clergymen to establish an exclusive negro colony.

"We are not opposed to exclusive sections at all," said Rev. Mr. Byrd "The man with money to buy a house in East avenue has a right to buy there, whether he is an Italian, Hungarian, Pole or Russian, and the man with money generally is fitted to live up to the civilization of his community. But we don't want exclusive sections for any one set of folks. I don believe it is the fair-minded sentimen of the North, East or West."

Resolutions expressing opposition t what were esteemed to be the princi ples that such a venture as the pro posed colony recognized were adopted

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PLAN HEALTH RESORT AND INDUSTRIAL CENTER

July 13, 1916

A Unique Community to be Established in the Mountains of North Carolina.

New York Age

BIG CONSTRUCTIVE MOVEMENT

Promoters Have Money to Purchase $4,000 Acres—Representative White and Colored Men of Both Sections Supporting Project.

(Special to THE NEW YORK AGE.)

PHILDAELPHIA, Pa.—Dr. John Patrick Turner, a prominent colored physician, and medical inspector in the local public schools, is the moving spirit in one of the largest and most practical constructive movements launched by Negroes in years—the establishment of a modern and progressive community in the mountains of North Carolina—which is to be an ideal health resort as well as a thriving industrial center.

Unlike many projects of magnitude engineered by Negroes this one has passed the "mere talk" stage. The usual "If we can get the money to start with" does not enter into this proposition, as money for the purchase of 4,000 acres is already at disposal and negotiations are under way to acquire the property in the very near future. It has not been necessary for the promoters to sell stock in the beginning in order to secure sufficient funds to finance their project.

The plans for the Negro community embody a combination of ideas being worked out at Chautauqua, N. Y., by the Methodist Episcopal Church, and those found in the establishment and maintenance of Pinehurst, N. C. The charter will restrict the owner of all property to those of African descent.

On the site will be erected large modern hotels for visitors and tourists. North Carolina is noted as a mountain health resort both summer and winter.

The very best hotel service will be provided, and guests will have an opportunity to observe the workings of one of the most unique settlements in this country.

A sanitarium for convalescents will be maintained, where the benefit of pure mountain air and expert medical and surgical attention may be had amidst beautiful and natural scenery.

The leading silk manufacturers of the State have promised to assist in making the community one of the largest silk manufacturing centers in the South. A factory with one hundred colored employees will be put up as soon as the community takes concrete form.

A special effort will be made to make the place the most inviting and convenient for the holding of conventions and large gatherings in America.

Some of the leading white and colored men of North Carolina are enthusiastically supporting this movement and have promised to ai [illegible] every way pos-

Incomplete

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Baldwin Farms Depot

The Negro Farmer 1-29-16

Baldwin Farms named for that great friend of the Colored people, the late William H. Baldwin, is an agricultural settlement located nine miles from the Tuskegee Institute, on the main line of the Western Railway of Alabama.

This community was founded to give persons wh had taken the agricultural course at Tuskegee and other who have been influenced by the Tuskegee Institut Farmers' Conference, Short Course in Agriculture o other agency, an opportunity to construct a model farming settlement.

Baldwin Farms is one of the very few places i North America which has a Negro railroad Ticket Agent Mr. Alonzo G. Chandler is the community leader. Mention is made of this place on another page of this pape

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EXCLUSIVELY FOR THOSE

A NEGRO COLONY

OF AFRICAN DESCENT

Atlanta Independent 8/5/16

In TROPICAL AMERICA, near the GREAT PANAMA CANAL, The World's New Commercial Center. THE BEST CLIMATE, LAND, TIMBER AND MARKETS ON EARTH. Climate, PERPETUAL SPRING-SUMMER. Soil, RICH AND DEEP. Cabinet woods abundant, MAHOGANY, LIGNUM VITAE, ROSEWOOD, etc. Plentiful rainfall, making Big Crops, ALL KINDS, YEAR ROUND; and the GREAT CANAL MAKES THE MARKETS. Land borders Lake Gatun, which is a part OF THE CANAL ITSELF, with water deep enough for OCEAN-GOING VESSELS AT YOUR VERY DOORS. Small cost, THREE DOLLARS AN ACRE, small tracts. Title perfect. A MAGNIFICENT PRIZE; but act NOW LAND SOON GONE. NO COLOR LINE. Solves race problem. SMALL COST. NO GRAFT. THE SLOW ARE ALWAYS LEFT BEHIND. Enclose stamp for booklet of information. DO IT NOW. Address:

THE HOMESEEKER'S AGENCY Box 584. TAMPA. FLA.

City of Independence Heights, Texas

Houston Observer 11-25-16

A number of energetic citizens have, with united effort, assumed the responsibility of installing a light and wat r plant for the public and private the city. They recognize this gantic undertaking, but reason s importance cannot be over- d. Further recognizing the of a city bond issue while the revenue is possibly less than normal, they have organized a joint stock company, employed legal counsel, and are now raising funds for its promotion. Among the promoters are Messrs. J. C. Addison, R. G. Graves, M. B. Lilly, J. H. Odem, C. M. Mitchell, O. Q. Hubbard, S. A. Brantley and P. Eagleton. A fair is planned to open Nov. 27-Dec. 2. An elaborate program and many attractions are scheduled for the week.

Rev. J. W. Gilder and congregation, Houston, assisted Rev. D. A. Runels in the rally Sunday. Rev. W. H. Scott, district missionary, is now conducting a mission work; held his first services Sunday at the City Hall, a number of representative citizens being present.

Mr. Wm. McGinnis, Houston, was in the city Tuesday assisting his father in some mechanical repair about his home. He states that the Young Men's Masonic Club of Houston is now very active, and solicited the services of Mayor G.E. Burgess to address them in the near future.

Watch for announcement of foot ball game next Friday.

Commerce & Finance

ess: New York City

Hobson City Ala.—A Negro Town. The New York *World* publishes the following from a Birmingham, Ala., correspondent:

After several years' struggle against heavy odds, including local unsympathetic sentiment and gloomy predictions of failure by white people of neighboring towns, Hobson City, the only municipality in the United States with one exception which is wholly populated and conducted by negroes, ha won its battle by demonstrating that it is a pronounced success.

When the plan to found an exclusively negro town in the South was proposed, scarcely any white people in the Anniston district, where it is located, dreamed it would work out But the negroes were not discouraged and went ahead. Now Hobson City is firmly established as a progressive town an governs itself successfully both in a financial way and i law enforcement and observance.

Back in 1900 this exclusively negro town was started by band of negroes who obtained a charter and incorporated The population shows a gain of 150 per cent. No man without employment is allowed to stay in the town. Either job is found for him or he is required to move away.

The town has four churches, with a combined membershi of 700, a good public school with 250 pupils, a dozen progressive stores, waterworks, electric lights, police and sanitary departments, a well built jail and a Governing Boar elected every two years. It is the only town in the Stat that is out of debt and has money in the treasury. Mor than half the citizens own their own homes. Some of it residents produce within a stone's throw of the town limit from $800 to $1,500 worth of cotton and other farm products besides large quantities of vegetables and fruits.

Hobson City's Governing Board consists of seven Councilmen, a Mayor and four other municipal officers, including Chief of Police. Every resident of the town is a negro.

Land for Colored People.

National Baptist Union Review 8/26/16

1600 Acres of Land in Sunflower.

LOOK! Land for colored people 1600 acres in Sunflower County, 6 miles west of Sunflower City, 8 miles east of Shaw; 10 miles north of Indianola, the County seat. Our people already own 2,000 acres, prices ranging from $20 to $30 per acre. Terms all cash or part cash and balance on terms to suit you at 6 per cent interest. This land is black sand, loam and some buckshot. It is the finest land in the Delta and is surrounded by two public roads.

Title good; delivered to you in the court house at Indianola, Miss. Come and see this land; come with a view to buy the only place to colonize, raise and handle your cotton. Don't write unless you mean business. If you write inclose a two cent stamp for reply.

Write me at Sunflower. I am living on the land and not at Chambers.

H. W. MOORE,
(Colored), Agent

8/19/16

On Tuesday of last week Beaufort was honored with five distinguished visitors, among them [illegible] C. V. Ro[illegible] Nashville, Tenn., Dr. John Turner of Philadelphia, medical inspector of the public schools of Philadelphia; Dr. C. V. Roman, professor at Meharry Medical College, Nashville, Tenn. They were here in the interest of a Negro colony, the project it is said has a backing of more than $1,600,000 behind it. More than 4,000 acres of land is wanted for this model town. The leaders of the movement are in quest of a good site. We hope they will locate around Beaufort. We know of no better site than St. Helena Island. In an interview with the party which came to Beaufort on the steamer Attaquin which they had chartered from Savannah to Charleston, Dr. Roman and Dr. Turner both spoke in the very highest terms of Beaufort and her natural advantages over other cities of the same size that they had visited. While here the visitors were shown through the city by Dr. N. J. Kennedy in his auto accompanied by Hon. J. I. Washington and other prominent citizens after which a smoker was tended them at the office of Hon. J. I. Washington. They were then taken to their steamer and left for Charleston, S. C., much impressed with our beautiful little city.

Chicago Defender 2/12/16

Edmonson, Ark., Feb. 11.—Edmonso is armed to its teeth tonight. The citizens are ready to lay down their lives to protect their homes and their families [illegible] attack by unruly whites from surrounding towns. This town is made up of race people and there are only [illegible] white families in the city. A report has reached here that an armed body of whites are on their way.

Trouble Starts.

The trouble started when Watson, a white man, shot Andy Fleming when the latter resented being called a "nigger." Watson is employed by the postmistress, who is a race woman. He was en route from the railroad station to the postoffice with a bag of mail when he started a quarrel with Fleming. The two "mixed it" and Watson whipped out a gun and shot Fleming. Others went after Watson and he was seriously wounded. Fleming is at the point of death in a Memphis hospital, where he was rushed. The two white families have been given notice to leave at once. Mayor W. M. Rooks, a race man, soon got in touch with the sheriff and officers were sent to the scene. They will do their utmost to protect the race citizens, and if the situation becomes too much for them the race is armed, awaiting the attack.

Little Rock Ark.
Gazette
Feb 8, 1916

WHITE BOY TELLS OF ROW WITH NEGRO MAYOR

Shot Him to Save Himself from Attack, but Was Held While Wounded Negro Cut Him.

As a result of Andrew Fleming, negro mayor of the town of Edmondson, resenting being called a "nigger," he lies in a hospital at Memphis, shot through the right lung, and Isaac Watson, white, 18 years old, who did the shooting, is at St. Vincent's infirmary with four cuts on his head.

The trouble occurred at Edmondson Saturday. Watson, who is staying with his brother-in-law, C. F. Knox, Rock Island station agent, is studying telegraphy under Knox. Last week Fleming came to the station for a telegram. Watson tells the story in this way:

"I was at the window when he came after the message. I turned to Knox and said: 'Here's a nigger for a telegram.'

"Fleming said: 'That's a —— of a way to speak of me.'

"I didn't think anything more of it and didn't think any trouble would come of it. Saturday I was going to the station with the mail and saw Fleming in front of me. All of a sudden he turned and started toward me, cursing me vilely. He came up to me and started to grab me. I drew my gun and shot him in the right breast. He fell to his knees and before I knew what had happened two other negro men came up behind me and held me. Fleming, still on his knees, cut me. And then I don't know what happened. I was either so scared or so weak from the cuts, I could not tell. I don't know the negroes who held me. I am going back to Edmondson when I get out of here. I don't expect any more trouble, though."

According to Dr. R. P. Harris, house physician, Watson is in no danger. The wounds are healing nicely. Dr. Harris said he knew the Watson boy in Tennessee and that he comes from a good family. Three severe cuts on the back of his head and one in his right ear is the extent of Watson's wounds. Dr. Harris said he should be able to leave the infirmary in a week or ten days.

News Courier

Charleston, S. C.

ss:

AUG 1

THAT NEGRO COLONY

Mr Jervey Agrees It Should Not be Located Hereabouts

To the Editor of The News and Courier: In your Friday's issue appears an account of a colony planned for negroes only, to be located in South Carolina, near Charleston, if the people of the section favor the plan.

This seems to invite expression of opinion and I have only delayed expressing mine to near others first. All that has followed has been that the gentleman [illegible] the plan prepared to [illegible] $2,000,000.

If this gentleman was prepared to put up $20,000,000 and the little which I have, which is almost entirely in highly taxed South Carolina real estate, was likely to treble in value, I would, nevertheless, regard the plan as one of the greatest misfortunes which could happen to the South, the whites and the negroes.

We have in this State already 835,771 negroes or 55.2 to 44.8 whites. Only one State in the Union has a greater negro majority than we and that is Mississippi, and South Carolina and Mississippi are the only two States in which the negroes are more numerous than the whites, although in Georgia there are over a million of them.

By an instinct, the race is spreading out throughout the United States and over into Canada; and if there was a reasonable desire to benefit them it is into Canada that they would be carried to meet the demand for labor that the war has produced there, and the chance of getting land. Along Peace River, in Canada, they have gathered and in small proportion have increased the stream of Americans who have poured into that great domain.

To bring them to the South, where they are already in such dense masses is in my mind the most sectional policy which could be developed concerning a great question; nor can I believe it has its origin in any other purpose than to draw them away from the natural movement of dispersion throughout the United States.

Theo D. Jervey.

Charleston. August 12.

ENQUIRER

Cincinnati.

AUG 3 1916

CRIME

To Enfranchise Negro,

Declares North Carolina Philanthropist, Who Will Finance Two Million City For Race.

"I consider the enfranchisement of the negro the greatest crime enacted in the history of the United States; it is an injustice to the white man," said John T. Patrick, North Carolina philanthropist, Monday at Ninth Street Branch, Y. M. C. A.

"I do not advocate social equality. I wish to place the negro in a position to earn a good living and own a home that he may be proud of. I have never broken bread at a negro's table and I never shall, and they respect and honor me for the stand I take."

Mr. Patrick is financing a $2,000,000 project to establish a city for negroes on an island off the coast of South Carolina.

The city that will be established will cover 5,000 acres of land. The charter will restrict the ownership of all property to those of African descent. A large school especially featuring the industries will be established, as well as a school of music.

Large, modern hotels will be erected. One of these will be for white visitors and tourists exclusively. A factory is being planned to give employment for the residents. A sanitarium for the convalescent will be provided, where the benefit of pure mountain air, expert medical and surgical attention may be had.

The board having charge of the arrangements consists of Dr. C. V. Roman, Nashville, Tenn., Secretary-Treasurer; John Patrick Turner, G. Edward Dickerson, Philadelphia, Penn.; Lester A. Walton, editor of New York Age, New York City, and A. B. Jackson, Philadelphia.

Mr. Turner will leave the latter part of this month to select the island and make final arrangements for establishing the city.

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paper Cutting Bureau in the World

News Courier

Charleston, S. C.

AUG 12 1916

Not Wanted Hereabouts.

We do not doubt that the people who have projected the proposed negro colony which was described in The News and Courier of yesterday are well-meaning enough. There may, indeed, be merit in their enterprise. In a way, it is in line with the segregation movement advocated by Mr Clarence E. Poe, of the Raleigh Progressive Farmer, a suggestion which has seemed to us a mistaken one but for which Mr Poe argues very earnestly.

Nevertheless, whatever the virtues or the defects of the Patrick undertaking, we hope that Mr Patrick will found his colony somewhere else than on the coast of South Carolina. It is not needed here and it is not wanted here. Already we have more negroes in the coastal section of South Carolina than can be used to advantage or than have proved themselves able to live here with advantage to themselves and to the community.

The worst thing which ever happened for this section was the tremendous influx of negroes which followed the invention of the cotton gin. Almost immediately the abounding prosperity of Charleston and the territory tributary to Charleston was transformed into a condition bordering on bankruptcy. The planters impoverished themselves in the purchase of slaves, heaping up debts against their estates from which few of them ever escaped. The negroes were a burden to their owners and they have been a burden to their descendants.

In saying this, we are not to be understood as taking issue with the prevailing opinion that the negro is the very best laborer for this soil and this climate. Under the conditions which have existed and which in large measure still exist, we think this is probably true. But for well over a hundred years South Carolina, especially in the coastal section, has at all timse had more negroes than it knew what to do with. The spread of slavery drove hundreds of thousands of white South Carolinians away from the State in the years preceding the War Between the States. The heavy negro majority in most of the counties of the State has been a retarding influence in our agricultural development ever since.

In recent years the census figures, which in these matters are more or less trustworthy, have indicated a slight falling off in the negro population of the coastal counties of South Carolina and a corresponding increase in white population. Our recollection is that for the counties of Beaufort, Berkeley, Colleton, Charleston and Georgetown the decrease in negro population between 1900 and 1910 was about 17,000. If these figures can be accepted they indicate a natural trend the right way.

It would be unfortunate for this section and unfortunate for the negroes who live here if this movement should be checked. True, any effort on a large scale to accelerate this movement would probably arouse considerable opposition, just as the activities of emigration agents among the negroes in the upper part of the State some fifteen years ago did. But we certainly do not want to bring any more negroes here. There are too many now.

Mr Patrick in his interview with The News and Courier indicated that the location of the colony near Charleston would depend largely upon whether or not the people of this section favored the plan. The point is one upon which he should not be left in doubt. With his scheme in general we are not especially concerned. Nevertheless we have problems enough already without a further complication of the kind which he proposes.

NY age

9/7/16

COMMUNITY IDEA WINS AID OF WEALTHY WHITES

(Special to The New York Age.)

Wadesboro, N. C.—Publication in last week's issue of The Age telling of the big project launched by well-known Negroes of the North and South to establish a unique community in the mountains of North Carolina has occasio widespread interest. John E. Patric a wealthy and influential white citizen of Wadesboro, has offered to act as advisor and consultant, promising to assist the promoters in every way possible. Mr. Patrick built Southern Pines, the great winter resort, and has been a strong factor in many other town developments in North Carolina. Other white men of prominence in the State look upon the idea with favor.

Plans for establishing this modern industrial center and health resort are extensive in scope, embracing all phases of community uplift and progress. As stated in last week's issue of The Age, the promoters have at hand money for the purchase of four thousand acres of land.

EXPRESS

Rochester

AUG 29 1916

A Excellent Plan.

Prominent negroes of this city are heading a movement to locate such householders as care to go in a suburb or city addition of their own where they may have neat and sanitary dwellings, garden plots and such surroundings as make life worth while. To this end they have an option on a three-hundred acre tract where prospective residents may build their homes or rent them from a company which stands ready to supply the demand for houses there.

This is a wise and worthy undertaking. There are very many self-respecting negro families in our city, industrious and clean of life, with children graduates of our schools and filling with credit positions requiring competence, reliability and ceaseless attention to their business [illegible]. Many of these families have va

sought to buy or rent dwelling

clean and quiet quarters of the

where there would be some incer

to keep their houses attractive

their door yards neat. Only the

tunate few can thus locate themselves, the rest of them finding nothing but ramshackle tenements and run-down hovels in forlorn districts

pen to them. The pro-

thei or city suburb will be

and erefore by many thrifty

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s from vicious influences

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Towns—1916

ing Bureau in the World

New Orleans, La.

AUG 8 1916

Negro Put Forty Families to Work at Growing Truck

INDIANAPOLIS NEWS.

REPORTS frequently tell of the success of movements in the south to establish negroes as small farmers. The carpet-bag doctrine of "forty acres and a mule" has no place in the new theory, and it has been found that the negro, with certain limitations, makes a very successful farmer.

A story comes out of Denver which throws new light on this subject. A negro named Oliver T. Jackson, who has long been a messenger at the Colorado state capital, is the originator of a prosperous co-operative farming society of negroes not far from the city. Jackson has been thrifty and has made use of opportunities to improve his fortune. Like many other negroes who have made some progress, he realized that northern philanthropists, while successful in promoting the welfare of the negroes of the South, were neglecting opportunities in their own part of the country.

A few years ago a government tract of 20,000 acres was thrown open to entry. It was Jackson's hope that he could get enough negro families from Denver and other Colorado cities to homestead the whole reservation. In this he failed. He got only half a dozen or so families together, and these he had to help to get a start. The little group has expanded. So that now there are forty negro families concentrated in the town of Deerfield, which has only colored inhabitants. Jackson arranged for the co-operative buying of machinery and the exchange of labor. Denver offered an excellent market for vegetables and fruits, so the settlers engaged in truck farming. They have prospered, having proved themselves to be dependable laborers and good husbandmen. There seems to be no race prejudice in the community, although the negroes, by preference, remain together. As white settlers sometimes desire to sell, their holdings are frequently obtained by negroes from the city who wish to try farm life.

The success of the experiment is due, of course, to the energy and interest of Jackson, who, being attached to the governor's office, obtained the help of the executive. There is much encouragement in the venture. It has demonstrated that the negro can become a truck gardener or small farmer in proportion to his ability and the community advantages which may be offered. The country needs more truck gardeners. A negro with a plot of ground near a big city is much more profitably employed—for both himself and society—than one who is a casual laborer. A tiller of the soil is a useful member of the community, and it may be that the colored race can advance itself through farming.

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g Bureau in the World

STATE

Columbia, S.C.

19

AUG 22 1916

Vicious and Ridiculous, Too.

With the details of the proposed scheme of founding a colony of negro farmers somewhere in South Carolina, the negroes to be brought from other parts of the country, The State is not familiar nor is it convinced that it is to be seriously undertaken, but the scheme will receive no encouragement or support in this part of the world.

Of the population of South Carolina 55 per cent. is negro and 45 per cent. white, the negro majority by the last census was more than 150,000, though it is decreasing, and what is desired in South Carolina is that the State become preponderantly white.

Of course capitalists of Pennsylvania or Peru have the legal right to purchase lands in South Carolina and sell them to Philadelphia and New York negroes, but persons in the exercising of legal rights are entirely capable sometimes of making monkeys of themselves. In other words, the man who sets on foot a commercial enterprise in a community that not only does not welcome it but resents its presence is the kind of a fool that usually is most quickly parted from his money. Justice under the law should be done to any lawful undertaking but that is no guaranty that equity will be done by the tax assessors of a county or a township where the enterprise is unanimously regarded as a nuisance and a public injury. Even a million of dollars would melt if it were placed in a colony of negro immigrants decoyed into South Carolina by highly garnished and burnished advertising "literature."

The negro colony will not be established in this State. Comparatively few men with money are out of their minds and the outsider who deliberately sets out to add to the seriousness of South Carolina's negro problem will very soon have his eyes opened.

With the negroes that we have in South Carolina we get on fairly well, so long as we are let alone by the Northern doctrinaires and the native demagogues (in late years the latter have been the more pestiferous of the two classes), but we need no negro immigrants. There isn't room for them even on the unoccupied lands.

Cutting Bureau in the World

NEWS Courier

Charleston, S.C.

AUG 19 1916

THREE SITES FOR THE NEGRO COLONY

One Near Charleston, Second Near Beaufort and Third Near Savannah

PLANS ARE TAKING SHAPE

John T. Patrick Says That the Industrial Town Will Be on South Carolina Soil

According to a letter received by The News and Courier from Mr John T. Patrick, one of the promoters of a scheme to launch a great colony exclusively for negroes, the community is not unlikely to be established near Charleston.

Mr Patrick and his party, investigating suitable sites for such a colony, were in Charleston recently on the Savannah steamboat Attaquin, having inspected sites near Beaufort on the way here from Savannah. Mr Patrick, while here, was taken by a representative of the Chamber of Commerce, into the adjacent country.

Mr Patrick, in his letter to The News and Courier from Spartanburg, says:

"I am able to say definitely that the great negro industrial town enterprise will be located in South Carolina. The three places to choose from are to be near Charleston, Beaufort and a point about fifteen miles from Savannah, Ga, but on South Carolina soil.

"The kind treatment of your Chamber of Commerce people had its influence and Charleston was included.

"It now depends on the most favorable prices as to lands and the desirability of the lay of the land. High lands preferred to the rich farming land.

"The first thing to go in after the lands are secured is the publicity department which will have with it a large printing outfit to do all lines of printing. This department alone will give employment to more than one hundred clerks, printers and helpers.

"The money to purchase lands and to establish the various enterprises that are to be put in during the first two years is in hand.

PUBLIC LEDGER

Philadelphia, Pa.

AUG 21 1916

LARGE NEGRO COLONY BEGUN AT SUGGESTION OF PHYSICIAN HERE

Community of 15,000 Planned in South Through Efforts of Dr. John P. Turner, School Medical Inspector

$1,600,000 ENDOWMENT

Will Be Situated on Island—North Carolina Philanthropist Financial Backer

A colony to be peopled by 15,000 members of the black race and to be supported financially through a gift of $1,600,000 from a North Carolina philanthropist is being planned by a negro of this city, Dr. John P. Turner, of 1302 South Eighteenth street, a medical inspector in the public schools.

The colony, Doctor Turner says, will be located on one of the sea islands off South Carolina, but the exact site has not yet been definitely determined. The man through whose munificence the settlement has been made possible is John T. Patrick, a multimillionaire, who founded Southern Pines, N. C., and who for many years has been devoted to the uplift of the American Indians.

The town which Doctor Turner plans to found, with the assistance of a board consisting of both negroes and white men, will be called "Co-operation." It will be an industrial community, with cotton and silk mills, stores, schools and a sanatorium for convalescent negroes.

Three sites are now under consideration. Each of them, according to the promoters of the project, is accessible to railroads and a steamboat line and adapted to cotton growing.

Doctor Turner, who as medical inspector visits public schools attended exclusively by colored children, will not resign his office here. He is charged with the duty of organizing the project, and when the town has been founded it will be subject to a form of civil government. A. C. De Pass, a Charlestown lawyer, will apply for a charter from the State of South Carolina, according to Doctor Turner's announcement.

No stock will be sold in establishing the colony. The expenses will be defrayed by Mr. Patrick, after whom Doctor Turner is named. It was in consequence of Doctor Turner's solicitation that Mr. Patrick made the gift.

George Singleton, owner of five silk mills in various parts of the country, will start another mill in the new town, according to the negro physician. Negro laborers will be transported to the colony by sea.

Dr. Algernon B. Jackson, superintendent of the Mercy Hospital, of this city, an institution for negroes, is also associated with the movement. An extensive canning industry is said to be planned, and a brother of the late Booker T. Washington, now a member of the faculty of Tuskegee Institute, has signified his intention of supervising this phase of the community's life.

Doctor Turner believes that the colony will be a success as a seaside resort for colored persons. A hotel to accommodate black visitors, as well as a smaller hostelry to provide for the white men and women who visit the place as an object of interest, will be erected.

The entire plan is said to have met with the approval of the white residents of the South. Doctor Turner believes that colonization represents the only real solution of the negro problem. Public schools, he says, will be organized and an attempt made to obtain a Federal appropriation for the educational institutions. Children will be instructed in trades, and inefficient and slothful negroes will be banished from the island.

HOBSON CITY CROWS LOUDLY.

The Journal and Guide

One of the most remarkable things in the make-up of the average colored person who succeeds in anything is that he claims immediately for himself or his thing, that he is the very first that ever did it. "He was the first," "She was the first," is to be found in the success of most of them, as a boast, by him or those who speak for him, because some of them have spokesmen, as Moses had in Aaron and Baalam had in the Donkey, either because they stutter, or are short of talk, which is mighty rare among them, or because they are too modest to sound their praises, a thing almost unheard of among them.

The claim, so common among us, of being the first of us or anything that we do, is significant in many ways. It argues that the average colored person is obsessed with a big bump of egotism, which denies that he owes anything for his success to his parents or grandparents, or that he subconsciously classes himself with the Donkey that balks and goes no further when he becomes a mule; because it is notorious that the mule has no past and no future, his doom being to be once a mule always a mule. The first that are also the last are a very unfortunate lot.

The newspapers last week brought to light "a wholly Negro town, the [illegible] municipality of its kind, with [illegible] exception," in Hobson City, Ala[illegible]. It is named for the Hero of [illegible] ago, who is now one of the chief [illegible] of the Prohibition propaganda [illegible] the country, a white gentleman, of course, as we seldom name any venture of ours for which we hope success after any great man of ours. When it is done, as sometimes happens, some white person or persons in authority does it for us, as in the naming of many public schools of ours as was done in Norfolk by Mr. Spence and Mr. Dobie. It is a real weakness, and we shall possibly overcome it as the race grows in wisdom and truth, and in justice to itself. We hope so, as we always hope the best for the race.

Well, Hobson City—like Mound Bayou, Miss., Buxton, Iowa, Titustown, Va., and others—is a colored community unto itself, only a few years old, and we recall when it was first begun, in 1900, it is declared, is a pronounced success. It has gained 150 per cent. in population, but for some charitable reason, the original inhabitants are not given for basis in estimating the increase. It has a charter, four churches, with a total membership of 700; a good public school with 250; a dozen prosperous stores; waterworks, electric lighting and police and sanitary departments; a well built jail, of course, and a governing board elected every two years. Withal, saith the chronicler, "It is the only town in the state that is out of debt and has money in the treasury."

Very good for Hobson City. May it continue to prosper, and become a light and leading in its prosperity, for itself and for others like it, that are struggling up from nothing to be something. The race needs many Hobson Cities.

[illegible]

JUN 14

NEGROES TO ESTABLISH BIG COLONY IN KANSAS

Committee Dickers With Railroad for Purchase of 20,000 Acres at a Low Price

Topeka, Kan.—Negroes from all over the United States soon will establish a colony exclusively for negroes, in western Kansas.

A committee is now dealing with the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad for the purpose of 20,000 acres of land, with an option on another equal area, on which to establish the proposed colony.

M. B. Brooks, editor of the Hutchinson Blade, a negro paper; Thomas Owens and N. H. Jelitz of Hutchinson and T. W. Gangway of Pratt are the organizers of the plan for the colony. They have had assurances of 800 negroes in all parts of the country to move to the new colony if the deal for the western Kansas land can be made.

Negroes now living in New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, St. Louis, Cincinnati, Washington and several southern cities have joined the peoples civil league the name of the organization.

It is not proposed to manage the colony on any socialistic or cooperative plan. The committee simply expects to purchase the land from the railroad and hold it in trust for the members of the organization until the final payments are made. The railroad company owns many thousands of acres of good land in the western part of the state. It sells the land only to actual settlers on the installment plan. The land is offered at a low price and may be paid for in five, ten or twenty year installments.

Only negroes who are now actual farmers, or those in cities who want to get back to the land will be permitted to take land in the colony. The only exception is a townsite of 160 acres on which a town is to be established as a trading post for the colony. The Civic League does not propose to establish this trading post to handle any business except that of looking after the land.

The deeds to the land will require that the settlers can never sell their land to other than negroes, and the same prohibition is to apply to the lots on the townsite. It is not expected that any white man will ever spend the night within the confines of the colony. The charter for the town is to provide that only negroes can hold office. The school districts with the colony are to be controlled entirely by negroes, only negro teachers will be employed and negro children allowed to attend, even tho the negro schools might be the nearest to a white family living just outside the colony limits. All church organizations admitted are to be given ten acres as a site and only one church of each denomination is to be allowed within the colony.

Nicodemus

Kansas already has a negro colony. It was established nearly thirty years ago in Graham county. The Union Pacific Railroad gave a colony of negroes several thousand acres of land in the eastern edge of the county. The township and the town they established was named Nicodemus.

It is only a hamlet several miles from the railroad. The negroes are all farmers but a few who maintain stores and shops at Nicodemus. There are no rulings against white men in Nicodemus, but as a matter of fact the negroes control the township and run things to suit themselves. Several county officers have been elected from Nicodemus. Nearly all the negroes own their own land, and many of them have fine homes. Their children attend the state agricultural college and are prosperous, advanced farmers. The negroes are actually more progressive and more careful farmers than many of the white farmers of the neighborhood and actually make more money than do many white people.

This colony was established simply by a group of negroes of eastern cities gathering up their friends and moving out. There was no idea of self government.

Indianapolis, Ind.

APR 25 1916

COLORED TOWN PROVES SUCCESS

Unique Alabama City Out of Debt, Happy and Contented.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., April 25.—After several years' struggle against heavy odds, including local unsympathetic sentiment and gloomy predictions of failure by white persons of neighboring towns, Hobson City, the only municipality in the United States, with one exception, which is wholly populated and conducted by colored persons, has won its battle by demonstrating that it is a pronounced success.

When the plan to found an exclusively colored town in the south was proposed, scarcely any white residents in the Anniston district, where it is located, dreamed it would work out. But the colored folk were not discouraged and went ahead. Now Hobson City is firmly established as a progressive town and governs itself successfully both in a financial way and in law enforcement and observance.

Back in 1900 this exclusively colored town was started by a band of colored men who obtained a charter and incorporated. The population shows a gain of 150 per cent. No man without employment is allowed to stay in the town. Either a job is found for him or he is required to move away.

The town has four churches, with a combined membership of 700, a good public school with 250 pupils, a dozen progressive stores, waterworks, electric lights, police and sanitary departments, a well built jail and a governing board, elected every two years. It is the only town in the state that is out of debt and has money in the treasury. More than half the citizens

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Rochester, N. Y.

OPPOSITION TO NEGRO COLONY

Although Association Wi

Take Homeseekers to Scene on Monday.

The plan to establish a negro colony on 360 acres of land just beyond Genesee Valley Park has its supporters but it is also meeting with considerable oppositio from part of the negro population of Rochester. According to an announcement by Rev. Lee B. Brown, pastor of Mount Olivet Baptist Church, 12 automobiles will convey home-seekers to the new site on Monday, where they will choose part of the land.

The option of the Co-operative Homemakers' Association of Colored People calls for an $80,000 purchase, and the option runs out soon. The colony plan calls for homes for 200 families.

Leading the opponents of the project are Rev. William A. Byrd, pastor of Trinity Presbyterian Church, and John W. Thompson. They say that the money cannot be obtained, and that the plan savors too much of the "Jim Crow" idea. The result, they claim, would be humiliation for the colored people of the city, and land values in the vicinity would drop, while the site would be shunned by white people.

As explained by Mr. Brown, the plan calls for house and garden space for 200 families, the house to cost about $2,000 and the land about $500. A school of scientific training is to be started, it is said, under the supervision of an expert.

At a meeting of the Charles E. Hughes Colored Republican Club last night at 185 Main Street West, a committee consisting of John W. Thompson, Thomas F. Portland, Lewis Alston, James S. Herndon, Charles Majett, Charles F. Moore, James A. Lasko, Thomas Wilson, R. C. Martin and L. M. Scott, presented a resolution condemning the project, which was adopted.

TO LOCATE ON THE SEA ISLANDS OFF S. CAROLINA

(Special to The New York Age.)

N.Y. Age 8/17/16

Charleston, S. C.—Savannah, Beaufort and Charleston are engaged in a keen but friendly rivalry in which the better element of both races are taking an active interest. Each city is particularly anxious to have the much talked of co-operative industrial community and health resort, to be owned and conducted exclusively by Negroes, established somewhere near its borders. No selection of a site will be made, however, until a meeting of the Board of Directors to be held in Philadelphia.

The directors have agreed on one important point, however, that the proposed community is to be located on the Sea Islands, off the coast of South Carolina, where the climate is ideal, the soil exceedingly fertile and there is no malaria.

A five days' tour of inspection of the Sea Islands has just been completed by two members of the Board of Directors—Dr. John P. Turner, of Philadelphia, and Dr. C. V. Roman, of Nashville. They were accompanied by Mr. John T. Patrick, a multi-millionaire of Wadesboro, N. C., a friend of the race, who is greatly interested in the success of the project; Mr. George Singleton, a millionaire silk manufacturer and his son, Isiah. The party chartered the steamer Attaquin at Savannah and made a visit to various islands.

The colored people of Cincinnati, Louisville, Savannah, Charleston, Beaufort, as well as New York, Philadelphia, Chicago and other northern cities are co-operating to make this venture a big success. Among the directors are Dr. A. B. Jackson, Dr. John P. Turner and Counselor G. Edward Dickerson, of Philadelphia; Lester A. Walton, of New York, and Dr. C. V. Roman, of Nashville.

The promoters originally planned to locate in the mountains of North Carolina, but upon investigation concluded that a community established on the Sea Islands off the coast of South Carolina would be a more advantageous move for many reasons.

From EVENING POST

Address: New York City

Date.......................... 1916

INSTANCES of successful coöperative farming ventures by negroes are not so frequent but that one from Denver deserves notice. A few years ago a Government tract of 20,000 acres was thrown open to negroes in eastern Colorado, and one Oliver T. Jackson, who had long been a messenger at the Colorado State Capitol, conceived the idea that he could get enough negro families from Denver and other cities to farm the whole reservation. Despite strenuous effort, he failed to find more than a half-dozen. But these did so well that the little group has now expanded to over forty families, concentrated in the little town of Deerfield, which, with only colored inhabitants, is growing rapidly. Machinery is bought and labor exchanged coöperatively, and the large truck gardens near the town have become a prominent source of supply for the Denver markets. The Governor at first gave much assistance to Jackson's colony, but it requires none now. Its hopeful demonstration that the negro can become a successful truck gardener or small farmer ought to interest other cities with waste land on their outskirts.

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Towns-1916

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EVENING POST

s: New York City

APR 8 - 1916

A NEGRO FARM COLONY

FOR fifteen years O. T. Jackson was the only negro farmer near Boulder, Col. He was industrious and was well liked by his white neighbors, but in the planting and harvest times when there was a dearth of farm-hands they could generally outbid him in the labor market, leaving him without assistants at the crucial times. He found it impossible to keep colored farm hands for any length of time because, with no other members of their race near at hand, they found it a lonely life.

In 1906 Jackson began to think about the situation and decided that what was needed was a community of colored people which would be large enough to be self-sufficient. Having come to a decision he started to work out his plans. Since then there has grown up on former Government land in Weld County, Col., a settlement of 250 negro men and women fairly started towards independence. The name of the settlement is Dearfield, and the force behind it is the Dearfield Developing Company, organized on a coöperative basis and preaching self-help.

The story of the struggles which the founder and the small group of pioneers which he gathered around him had, and of the momentum which the movement gained as it became successful, is told by W. J. Harsha in an interview with Jackson in the *Southern Workman*.

: : Colorado

EFFORTS were first made to obtain suitable land from the State Land Office, but none was found available. Then attention was directed to the Federal authorities and locations were offered in three different counties in Colorado. Jackson and the two or three men whom he had associated with him finally selected the Weld County site because of its fertility, availability of water, and good railroad connections with the large markets of Denver only seventy miles away. The Jackson family was the first to settle in May, 1910, and a home was established a year later. Of the first settlers Mr. Jackson says:

"I met most of the first settlers in a casual way—in restaurants and barbershops and on street corners. I was invited to speak at our Denver church on the importance to our people of getting land before it is too late; after the meeting the people crowded around me asking for particulars. After several men had filed they sent their friends to me. Women claimants—widows, spinsters, deserted wives—were particularly active. We publish a little paper and mention in it all filings made, and this attracted attention. I am now receiving lots of mail and many callers asking for homes.

"The Dearfield settlers were as poor as people could be when they took up homesteads. Their advancement has been something wonderful for our people, who know nothing of pioneer life. Some who filed on their claims had not enough money to ship their household goods and pay all their railroad fare. They paid their fare as far as they could and walked the balance of the way to Dearfield. Soon after arriving in Dearfield they secured work with the wealthy white farmers in the district, and began to build houses on their claims. Some lived in tents, others in dugouts, and some in natural caves in hillsides.

"The first year there were only seven families in the settlement, and we had only three teams. We managed to get in some garden corn, melons, pumpkins, squash, Mexican beans, and potatoes. We cleared a few acres for hay ground, removing the sagebrush by hand, the women and children wielding grubbers as industriously as the men, though not as sturdily, perhaps; and after grubbing we ploughed, harrowed, and burned the remaining brush."

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SUFFERING in the little community was intense during the first winter. There were only two frame houses. Firewood had to be carried from three to seven miles. Three of the horses died from starvation, and the other three were too weak to pull even an empty wagon, Mr. Jackson continued. Yet the little group managed to keep up their own and each other's courage, and after the first winter was weathered, further problems and hardships were more easily met and overcome. Now, in addition to having settled all the available claims, a small negro town is growing up at Dearfield, where professional men, tradespeople, artists, and manufacturers on a small scale serve the needs of the farming community.

From the inception of the settlement Jackson and his colleagues tried to advertise their movement for a negro farming community in such a way that white people would not hear about it and come in and take up the land where it was hoped that colored farmers would settle. These efforts were only successful in a measure, and many of the best locations were taken up by white settlers. At the same time, Mr. Jackson speaks with considerable satisfaction of the type of white man who came into the community, and of the fact that most of them have shown a willingness to sell out their holdings at reasonable valuations to prospective negro settlers.

Owing to the laws governing the taking up of homesteads it was not possible for the settlers to gather together and clear one common plot for cultivation. Instead, the method of coöperative help used was for a group to collect on the homestead of one settler after another and clear away enough land on each claim to start the prospective owner. In this way each colonist soon had under cultivation the amount of land required by the Government for proving up his title to the homestead. After the first few years, during which it was absolutely necessary to devote all the tillable land available to the cultivation of the commonest staples and forage for the stock, the farmers gradually began to add various kinds of vegetables and fruits, including the inevitable watermelon, not only for home consumption, but also, as a surplus was raised, for sale in the markets of Denver. Then attention was turned to improving the yield of the crops, particularly hay, until now the colony has passed from the stage of bare self-sufficiency to increasing prosperity.

Courier

Charleston, S. C.

AUG 12 1916

NEAR SAVANNAH OR CHARLESTON

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Proposed Negro Colony Wil Probaly Be Located on the Carolina Coast

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MR PATRICK TELLS PLANS

◆

Daufuskie and Bluffton Are Among the Places Visited by the Party

The party of promoters of a colony for negroes, to be located somewhere in the South, who arrived on the steamer Attaquin from Savannah Thursday evening, relinquished the steamer yesterday and left the city after having investigated several cites for the proposed industrial town along the coast between Charleston and Savannah, declaring that in all probability the colony would be established on the coast of South Carolina or Georgia.

"We began our tour for the selection of a site several weeks ago," said Mr John T. Patrick, of Wadesboro, N. C., a capitalist, who has been identified with many enterprises in this section of the South and in the southwest, "and we first looked over some promising sites in the North Carolina and east Tennessee mountains, after which we went to Cincinnati and held several important business meetings, arousing much interest in the proposition among the negroes of that city. From Cincinnati we went to Savannah, arriving there last week, where we chartered the steamer Attaquin, which plies between Savannah and Bluffton, for a trip up the coast to Charleston. Capt Jas H. Haynsworth, master of the steamer, became immediately interested in our colonization project and kindly made us a reduction for the use of the boat. We left Savannah Tuesday morning and he charged us only $350 for the four days' use of the steamer. I gave him a check for that amount this morning and he will steam away to-night or in the morning for Savannah to resume his run on the Savannah and Bluffton line."

Satisfied With Coast Sites.

"Where did you stop coming up?" he was asked, "and were you pleased with any of the sites visited?"

"We stopped at several places and were more or less pleased with them all," replied Mr Patrick. "And I will say right here that I believe the colony will be established somewhere along the coast between Charleston and Savannah. These coast sites are much more suitable for a negro colony than any mountain site in the country. But you must understand that the gentleman who is financing this enterprise, and who stands willing to put up nearly $2,000,000 to make it a success, has given Dr John Patrick Turner, medical inspector of the public schools of Philadelphia, full power to choose the site. Dr Turner will select the site soon, and when that has been done we shall be ready to close a deal for the property selected and begin establishing a city for the colonization of colored people who wish to perfect themselves in industrial lines.

"However, you asked me where we stopped on our way up the coast. Well, our first stop was at Daufuskie Island, near Tybee, and the second at Bluffton. Betwen Bluffton and Beaufort there is a place which was laid out as the site of a city before the Civil War, and of course the site is there yet, but not the city. I don't know why it was ever abandoned. This particular site is about six miles from the Seaboard Air Line on the route between Charleston and Savannah. From this point we went to Beaufort and that was our last stop before docking at Charleston. We travelled entirely by day, anchoring at night, and thus we saw the entire coast and inspected every promising site on the way under the best advantage."

"Have you any idea whether any one of the sites you visited on the coast will be selected for the colony?"

"I couldn't answer as to that," said Mr Patrick, "because, as I previously stated, Dr Turned has the sole privilege of selecting the site, but I can say this, that all of us agree as to the advantages of locating the colony somewhere along this coast, and I think it should be located within fifteen or twenty miles of either Charleston or Savannah so that we can have the benefit of the markets in one or the other of these cities."

Purpose of the Project.

"What is the plan of the promoters in respect to the purposes of the colony?"

"We shall establish an industrial city for colored people," Mr Patrick replied "where negro boys and girls, and men and women, may be taught all the arts of industry. Church organizations, societies, and other bodies of colored people throughout the country are to be interested in the enterprise and we hope to have whole families come to the colony for instruction in various lines of employment. Then they will eventually return to their homes or go anywhere, fully equipped to give efficient service in the household, the store, or the factory. The city will be named 'Cooperation' and it is to be self sustaining. Schools, churches, municipal buildings, and every form of building which one sees in any city will be constructed by the promoters for the benefit of those who care to participate in the advantages it will offer.

"Dr C. V. Roman, professor of diseases of the eye in Menarry Medical College at Nashville Tenn., has been with us on the trip and left for Nashville this morning, where he will begin the work of arousing interest in Nashville and in Tennessee immediately. Dr Turner left for Columbia on the same train with Dr Roman and the former will hold meetings in Columbia followed by meetings in Raleigh next week, after which he returns to his duties in Philadelphia. I shall leave here for my home in North Carolina tonight. Yes, I built the summer resort hotel at Southern Pines in North Carolina, but of recent years have been interested in the rice industry down in Texas, having gained a lot of experience in the rice business here in South Carolina. I came near being a South Carolinian, by the way, having been born ten miles from the State line in Anson County, North Carolina, which adjoins your Chesterfield County."

"Have you any idea how long it will be before you are ready to begin the construction of the colony?"

"Oh, it will not be long, but I can't say just when until we have had a meeting and hear a report as to the sites visited," said Mr Patrick, "but I should think we ought to be at work by next spring."

Anniston Ala

MAY 11 1916

WHAT NEGROES CAN DO.

The unique town of Hobson City, adjoining Anniston, the only exclusively negro governed and inhabited city in the United States, is a shining example of what the African race can do in the way of self government.

Since the founding of the city in 1900, there has been a gain of 150 per cent in the population, which contains no white people. At the time of its incorporation, white people were skeptical of its ultimate success, and predictions of failure and isaster were heard on all sides.

The success of this undertaking in city building has attracted the attention of a writer for the New York Sun, who describes it as follows:

"The town has four churches with a combined membership of 700, a good public school with 250 pupils, a dozen progressive stores, waterworks, electric lights, police and sanitary departments, a well built jail, and a governing board elected every two years. It is the only town in the state that is out of debt and has money in the treasury. More than half the citizens own their own homes. Some of its residents produce within a stone's throw of the town limits from $800 to $1,500 worth of cotton and other farm products besides large quantities of vegetables and fruits.

"Hobson City's governing board consists of seven councilmen, a mayor and four other municipal officers, including a chief of police. Every resident of the town is a negro."

Lately the town has been more orderly than the average city of its size inhabited by a mixture of races. This is partly accounted for by the fact that the citizens of Hobson City are all busy. No tramps are allowed to remain overnight within the city limits, and unless a man is working regularly he is considered an undesirable citizen and invited to go to work or leave town.

This is the sort of negro segregation that is sensible and pays. The negroes of Hobson City are learning to govern themselves in a lawful manner without the aid of white people, and their example could be followed to advantage in other sections where there are a number of negro residents. In Hobson City the "white folks" do not intrude on the negroes, nor do they intrude on their Caucasian neighbors.

Voice of the People

From its very inception Hobson City, Ala., with one exception the only colored municipality in the United States, has not only demonstrated its ability to organize and govern herself, but has shown that she can do this along progressive lines.

In the year of 1899 her small but spirited band of citizens secured after no little bit of effort a charter and was incorporated and organized in the month of August of that year. Including immediate suburbs her population today shows an increase of 150 per cent. Her citizens are contented, law-abiding, and as a whole industrious; vagrants are not tolerated and are tacitly urged to move on or suitable work is found for them to do. She has several public institutions, among which are four churches—two Methodist, one Baptist and one Sanctified, with a combined membership of approximately 500. She is the jealous possessor of one public school with an enrollment of some 200. The state funds appropriated for this institution, by the way, are, however, claimed to be inadequate and should be augmented if consistent with the state's public school funds. Donations from private citizens who are interested in educational pursuits certainly would be appreciated if put in the hands of this institution. The municipality is free from debt and has some money in its treasury; its gubernatorial board is elected every two years, thereby making it possible to keep this feature of its machinery in a more healthy and enthusiastic working condition. Its homes are supplied with electric light and more than half of the citizens own their own homes.

Anniston, a city of some 20,000 inhabitants, is located just north of Hobson City, and is connected with it by a trolley system owned by the Alabama Power company, which maintains a special car for the colored people to take them back and forth to their daily occupations consisting mainly of public works conveniently located along the car line. The city is supplied with good water from the Anniston waterworks, and while the system is incomplete, plans are being made to bring it up to the usual state of efficiency, and thereby insure the least possible insurance rate and fire loss. The city has an organized sanitary system maintained by the police department. Its jail house would be a credit to a city of double its population—being of concrete construction, and equipped with furniture and fixtures to preserve sanitation and hygiene. It has some two or three grocery stores, owned and operated by colored citizens. It has citizens who produce almost within a stone's throw from $500 to $1,000 worth of cotton and other staple products, including hundreds of bushels of peaches per year. Its governing board consists of seven councilmen, a mayor together with some three or four minor officers, including chief of police.

Memphis Tenn Scimitar
Feb 10 1916

Edmondson, Ark., Following Killing of Negro Leader, Organizes Gang and Sends Death Threat in Letters.

NEWS SCIMITAR SPECIAL.

EDMONDSON, Ark., Feb. 10.—Threats of "spilling white blood all around town," followed by a letter threatening death and signed by "The Bloody Gang," today cleared Edmondson of its last white inhabitant, and the town is now completely in the hands of negroes. The only exception are two deputy sheriffs from Marion, who are standing guard with shotguns over the Rock Island depot.

As the result of the race riot which has dominated the town during the past few days, Station Agent C. F. Knox, the last white man in the town, was removed to Memphis this morning in custody of Sheriff Munroe. His wife and child were also removed from the town.

The threats against Knox followed the tragedy there a few days ago when Oscar Watson, assistant station agent, shot and killed Andy Fleming, negro, who was the leading figure in Edmondson affairs. Fleming died in a Memphis negro hospital from a pistol wound in the breast.

Resisted Attack.

Watson shot Fleming when the negro attacked him with a knife as he was carrying mail to the postoffice. Trouble has been brewing since then.

Last night Knox received the following letter, signed by "The Bloody Gang:"

"Knox, Agent: No white man can do us as you have allowed us to be done, and if you want to live any longer you better leave this town right now. No white folks can murder us."

There are about 600 negro inhabitants in the town and all property is owned by negroes. This is the only town of a similar nature in Arkansas, and there is only one other town possessed entirely by negroes, Mound Bayou, Miss.

All property is tied up in long-time leases and cannot be purchased by white men. Fleming was a real estate broker. William Rooks, negro, is the town's mayor.

From NEWS
Address MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.
Date APR 21 1916

NEGRO TOWN PROVES SUCCESS IN ALABAMA

Hobson City Doesn't Owe a Cent; Money In the Treasury.

Birmingham, Ala., April 21.—After several years' struggle against heavy odds, including local unsympathetic sentiment and gloomy predictions of failure by white people of neighboring towns, Hobson City, the only municipality in the United States, with one exception which is wholly populated and conducted by negroes, has won its battle by demonstrating that it is a pronounced success.

When the plan to found an exclusively negro town in the south was proposed, scarcely any white people in the Anniston district, where it is located, dreamed it would work out. But the negroes were not discouraged and went ahead. Now Hobson City is firmly established as a progressive town and governs itself successfully both in a financial way and in law enforcement and observance.

Began In 1900.

Back in 1900 this exclusively negro town was started by a band of negroes who obtained a charter and incorporated. The population shows a gain of 150 per cent. No man without employment is allowed to stay in the town. Either a job is found for him or he is required to move away.

The town has four churches, with a combined membership of 700; a good public school with 250 pupils, a dozen progressive stores, water works, electric lights, police and sanitary departments, a well built jail and a governing board elected every two years. It is the only town in the state that is out of debt and has money in the treasury. More than half the citizens own their own homes. Some of its residents produce within a stone's throw of the town limits from $800 to $1,500 worth of cotton and other farm products, besides large quantities of vegetables and fruits.

Hobson City's governing board consists of seven councilmen, a mayor and four other municipal officers, including a chief of police. Every resident of the town is a negro.

ENQUIRER

Philadelphia, Pa.

AUG 20 1916

PLAN TO FORM NEW COLONY FOR NEGROES

Only Members of the African Race Will Be Permitted to Own and Till the Land

Plans for a new co-operative colony to be established by negroes upon an island off the coast of South Carolina were yesterday made public by Dr. John T. Turner, of Philadelphia.

The colony, as contemplated, is to be made practicable by the endowment of $2,000,000 settled upon the enterprise by two persons jointly. The names of these were given by Dr. Turner as John T. Patrick, of Waynesboro, S. C., and William Singleton, of Dover, Del. They will contribute equal amounts.

The plans of the new colony include a new municipality, with its own corporate government, and agrarian enterprises upon the remainder of the island, which contains in all about 6000 acres.

Silk mills are to be established, with other industrial enterprises of an appropriate sort. The island is capable of raising cotton, figs, oranges, bananas, yams and other semi-tropical fruits and vegetables, as well as oats and other grain.

The plans for the new commonwealth are already, it is said, far advanced. Most of the island is already under cultivation. For the purpose of trade, a hotel for the exclusive use of white persons is to be built. The right to hold land, however, according to the plans at present in mind, is to be given only to persons of African race.

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Towns—1917

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THE ST. LOUIS STAR AND BROOKLYN, ILL.

The exposure of wholesale gambling in Brooklyn, Ills., by the St. Louis Star, forces an issue that has for a long time been a burning sore to the race. We say this, because Brooklyn is classed as a Negro town and although it is in the state of Illinois it no less affects the morals of the Negroes in St. Louis, East St. Louis and other near by places. St Louis Argus. 4/27/17.

It has been authoratively said, that many St. Louis Negro men and women journey to Brooklyn to join the orgys of dancing and gambling. It has even been stated that young married women of supposedly good character have made automobile trips to Brooklyn where they indulge in drinking and other vices.

We hope that the Star's exposure will not only enlist the aid of the law to clean up Brooklyn, but will put the County Attorney on record as being for or against law violators.

If the statements made in the Star are true, the Negro city officials of Brooklyn should hang their heads in shame, to have the world know that for a few paltry dollars they have allowed the town to be flooded with white gambling houses. There are some very respectable and law-abiding citizens in the town, and what must be their plight, when they are confro[illegible] with the existing facts? Decent wom[illegible] and chil[illegible] must [illegible] fro, and must pass these div[illegible] e gambler [illegible] and their c[illegible] holding sway.

OUR NEGRO COMMUNITIES

Atlanta Ga

Some Demonstrations of Self-Development that Show Race Capability Under a Variety of Environments. How They May be Further Fostered by the Urban Residents and Our Fraternal and Financial Institutions.

10/27/17

By J. A. Jackson, Contributing Editor

Atlanta Independent

It has often been said by the detractors of the race that a Negro is incapable of initiative—that he requires some one to boss him.

When Mound Bayou, Miss., was presented as an argument to refute this statement, the excuse was offered that the natural richness of the territory was such as to create wealth in spite of the incapacity and errors of the people. Not once was it conceded that the development of this community was an achievement that had experienced every handicap endured by the early American settlers, with the difference that the settlers of 1621 were opposed by only primitive savages, while the more thorough antagonism of color jealously was directed against Mound Bayou.

When Boley, Oklahoma, began to attract attention, the white press proclaimed it as the personification of the great good accomplished by their beneficient segregation practices. It was asserted that the pressure from the outside was compelling the Negro to succeed again in spite of himself. No credit was conceded to either promoters or participants in this successful enterprise.

In both of these instances the press gave credit unto the South for such good as came to civilization and to the race from these accomplishments; and insinuated that such things were possible only in the great Southland.

One of these is located in Michigan amid distinctly Northern surroundings. The promoters are being encouraged by local interests and are obtaining unsolicited assistance from state officials. The Pere Marquette Railway has offered every assurance of co-operation to the community. Rev. D. P. Jones of Chicago, who has recently been in Atlanta, speaks in glowing terms of this township and the degree of success with which it has been meeting.

The history of the Dearfield townsite and settlement of Colorado, is interesting in that it demonstrates the Negro's ability to withstand the high and dry climatic conditions, and to win in the West.

Fifteen years ago farming was discussed among the leading men in Colorado as the new avenue of employment and self help. In May, 1910 a settle was started upon government land, in Weld County, where 20,000 acres in one body was open for homesteading. One settler filed upon 320 acres as a desert claim and another filed on 160 acres as a homestead claim. These men, one of them, O. T. Jackson, interested others in their plans. Now Negroes occupy 15,000 acres of this land and the rest is in the hands of very friendly disposed white farmers. Within a radius of twenty miles, there are now many more colored farmers and settlers.

These make a total of more than 500 families of our folks in this virgin county. The townsite already has a church, telephone exchange, cement block factory, public school and a blacksmith shop. A colored Justice of the Peace administers the law for the whole township. Last year the absence of merchants and skilled craftsmen compelled these people to spend more than $20,000 with mail order houses. The state land board appraised the value of these peoples holding this year at $432,000.

These propositions may be greatly assisted by the residents of older towns and cities in several different ways.

First, their value may be studied and shown to the young men who are inclined to want an opportunity to pioneer.

Second. Young men who were mistakenly attracted from the country to the city, might be directed to these new places to the advantage of themselves and to society.

Third. Older folks might to good advantage, finance young members of their families or their friends in business projects destined to grow along with the community.

Fourth. Our fraternal organizations and financial concerns might do well to ascertain the investment possibilities of these communities.

This article is in nowise an advertisement for any of the settlements mentioned, but is intended to disseminate some information as to the achievements of the race. This is written in the belief that such knowledge is stimulating to all of us.

These things cannot fail to encourage us a bit as we read the many unfavorable stories that find their way into the white papers. Even though rarely admitted, and then relucantly, there is little doubt that any improvements in the economic condition of the race complets some added respect from the country at large.

MOVE ON TO CLOSE BROOKLYN SALOONS.

The Freeman

Only Negro Town in Illinois May Go Dry Sundays—Resolutions Passed At Mass Meeting.

1/13/17

(By J. M. Batchman.)

ST. LOUIS, Mo., Jan. 12.—The liquor question is one that will not down; it has finally struck Brooklyn, Illinois, a town known to the postal authorities as Lovejoy, and there are dire threats to make this refuge for the thirsty on Sundays as dry for one day of the week as the proverbial camel is for seven.

Brooklyn is an east side suburb of St. Louis and has a colored population of about 2,000 ;it is located between East St. Louis and Venice, Ill., and has all Negro officers, including the mayor, chief of police, board of trustees, alderman, etc., and has been known for years as one spot where convivial habits were not limited to the week days and personal liberty sat on its throne unmolested. It must be said, however, that most of the east side towns have been similarly affected and the finger of scorn has singled out Brooklyn unjustly simply because it is a Negro community. Now the church element of the city has arisen in its might and threatens to clamp on the lid and devote one day in the week to the service of the Lord.

There is no doubt but that the church going people have been ashamed, for years, of the reputation Brooklyn has enjoyed as a wide open town; but the liquor element has been so thoroughly in control of the situation, they have been unable to stop the wave of evil which has swept over the community to give it an unsavory reputation. Now they are determined to place a check on demon rum.

The police authorities of East St. Louis, Granite City, Venice and Madison, all regarded as "Hell Holes" by the righteous, have given impetus to the movement by their announcement they are going to enforce the Illinois law against the open Sunday saloon, in their respective communities. The church people of Brooklyn have wanted to take this step for a long time; they have foreseen the evident desire of the county officials to at times override the wishes of the people of their little city because of its independence as a Negro settlement. They know also of the evident scheme in some quarters to wipe Brooklyn off the map by swallowing it up in some larger community and thus eliminating its Negro officials. They hope to prevent this impending catasthrope by making it the one clean spot on the east side and believe it can be accomplished. Much of the city's trouble along this line has been caused by carousing automobile parties of whites who have sought to make the place a rendevous for Sunday revelries. In fact the whites who have followed this practice have furnished, by far, the largest per cent of the drinking lawless element which has contributed to the town's present bad name. The result has been to focus attention to what appears to be a laxity in enforcing the law.

Brooklyn is not as bad as painted by a long shot and she has received the attention of the white press in a way which indicated prejudice against her. Some of the best colored people of the "Sucker" state have made their residence in the town ever since it was founded, but they have suffered through the control of the municipal government by the liquor element. Now they are determined to clean up things and set up an orderly house. Under the leadership of Rev. G. A. Duncan, Rev. W. B. T. Harwood and Rev. T. A. Johnson, pastors of the three churches of the town, a mass meeting was held last week and their members passed resolutions calling on the Board of Trustees of the city to enforce the Sunday closing law of the state in Brooklyn. These resolutions were presented at the board meeting Wednesday of last week.

The trustees of Brooklyn are: Abraham Pope, E. L. Dixon, Frank Turner, Richard Evans, David Ferguson, Henry Hunter and J. H. Thomas; the last named is the president. The members of the board promised the petitioners, if the citizens of the town were shown to be in favor of closing up shop Sundays, they would enforce the law. There is small doubt but that in the end the wishes of the church people will prevail.

Brooklyn's population contains about sixty white people. Ninety-nine per cent of all the business is conducted by Negroes and the place is absolutely a Negro community in which there are many men who are rapidly securing a hold on this world's goods. The people find employment in large manufacturing establishments near the city at top wages and for the most part live a quiet and contented life. A good deal of their trouble is caused by designing persons who seek to obtain control of the municipality and bring it under white domination. The Brooklyn school and churches would do credit to any similar settlement and the homes are well ordered.

NEW TOWN STARTS OFF WITH BOOM.

The Dallas Express

[illegible]

Henryetta, Okla., Jan 23.—The managers of the Bookertee Townsite Co., today closed a contract with an Eastern Smelter Co., by the terms of which they are to begin work at once on the construction of an immense zinc smelter similar to those now in operation at Henryetta. This smelter will represent an investment of approximately half millon dollars and will employ within the next few months between five and six hundred men. Work will start on this smelter with in the next week or ten days and will be pushed to completion as rapidly as weather conditions and freight deliveries will permit. This smelter was secured because of the fact that Bookertee has such unlimited supply of gas and coal for fuel. Negroes will be employed in the smelter as well as the other industries at Bookertee and this is the only instance where the Colored man has been permitted to own a share in the industry that furnishes him employment. Negroes will be represented on the board of directors, there will be Negro-book-keepers, Negro cashiers, Negro foreman and infact every place will be filled by Negroes as fast as they can be trained to do the work.

ROCHESTER, N. Y.

JAN 27 1917

SEE "PROMISED LAND" NEAR BAY

22

Colored Folks View Farm Tract in Irondequoit.

EXPECT TO MOVE IN SPRING

Southerners also Coming to Lakeside Farm Sites Obtained by Co-operative Homemakers Association.

More than a century ago Father Rochester first saw the light of day on the now famous One Hundred-acre Tract. Yesterday Rev. Lee B. Brown, pastor of Mt. Olivet Baptist Church, led a number of his followers to another one hundred-acre tract, in Irondequoit, and from that vantage point showed them the "promised land" in the immediate vicinity of beautiful Irondequoit Bay. He only showed it to them from a distance; for it still is a goal to be striven for by the members of the Rochester Co-operative Home Makers Association for Colored People.

Nearly a year ago Rev. Mr. Brown thought of the opportunity that awaited a good and industrious body of colored people, and he at once set to work on the project of colonizing the folk of his race. His attempts were balked on a number of occasions; but being of a persevering nature, he kept going until now the goal seems near at hand.

Experienced Farmers Coming.

The idea of Mr. Brown is to procure a number of thrifty colored people to settle there and till the land. Already a number of excellent farmers from the Southern states, learning of the advantages to be gained by an investment in "the garden spot of New York State," have written to Rev. Mr. Brown, stating that they would be glad to come here. But much care is being manifested in the choice of the newcomers. Each one is a property owner in his own state and is willing to try to better himself in a new field that has made such a reputation as a garden center.

The exact location of the property would not be divulged last night; but it is understood to be on the Sodus Bay car line. For the 100 acres the homemakers are to pay $30,000. To realize the goal, $5,000 must be raised before April 1. That is expected to be done by public subscription and other means; but by April 1 Rev. Mr. Brown is sure that he will have the necessary money on hand.

One of the railroads entering Rochester has agreed to carry the colored farmers here at a greatly reduced rate, providing that it can be done in lots of ten. Rev. Mr. Brown said last night that they wouldn't come in tens, but in twenties. Then too, there are a number of Rochester colored persons who are much interested in the project and who want to start farming it. All will be given the chance.

THE EDITOR MAKES A TRIP TO THE CLAYBROOK MERCANTILE STORE AT TOPAZ, ARK.

Mr. John C. Claybrook, merchant and planter, at Topaz, near Simsboro, Ark., operates a big store carrying about $7,500 stock of goods, dealing in general merchandise, dry goods, shoes notions and ladies' hosiery, toilet goods, canned goods, candies, fruits, groceries, hardware, wire, nails, etc. Mr. Archie [illegible] Reams, bookkeeper, Miss Maud K[illegible]ne, assistant and saleslady; Miss Susie Session, saleslady; Mr. J. E. Floyd, clerk, and stockman.

Over at the Claybrook Station, Topaz, on the Marianna branch of the Iron Mountain Railroad, one will find the conveniences of a city and the landmark of a coming Negro town. There is upstairs over the big store eight large living rooms, which take on the airs of a first-class boarding house or hotel, under the care and keeping of Mrs. Alice Houston, who is "some" cook. The dining room and kitchen is most excellently kept, clean, cool and inviting, with electric lights and chandeliers, electric fans, Hygeia distilled ice water and all the good things to eat one's appetite may desire. The cottages and laborers' boarding house are all equipped with electric lights. The big cotton gin is run by oil engines.

There are about one dozen farm cottages on the Claybrook farm, a large barn and stock pasture, and all are well kept and whitewashed, even all the outhouses, cotton pens and poultry houses and yards. The Claybrook farm of near 500 acres of rich Arkansas land, is as good soil as one would wish to run a furrow through, and there is now a top-notch crop of cotton, corn, peas, potatoes, sorghum and alfalfa, to be harvested.

The cotton is all from waist to shoulder high, averaging 30 to 40 bolls to the stalk. Five bales of cotton were ginned Tuesday. A large gang of timber cutters are at work in the woods, getting out logs daily for shipment to Memphis mills by rail.

Just north of the Claybrook farm runs the farm of Mr. A. B. Owens, who owns about 500 acres of the same good, rich land. Mr. Owens has several new, up-to-date tenant homes on his tract. A lovely summer house for himself and family; also, a new latest patented, cotton gin, with a capacity of over 25 bales daily output.

Young Alfred M. Owens is planning to build another store at Topaz and become a big merchant and business man. Mr. Owens and Mr. Claybrook both are giving employment to numbers of laborers and tenants upon their farms.

Mr. Louis Green, of 348 Cottage Street, Memphis, is the village blacksmith, and general iron and wood workman at Topaz.

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ROCHESTER, N. Y.

JAN 9 1917

COLORED FOLK HAVE $80,000 IN SIGHT FOR THEIR CO-OPERATIVE FARM PROJECT—TO SELECT SITE

Members of the Co-operative Homemakers Association for Colored People will meet on Friday evening of this week to discuss arrangements for the beginning of active work on plans for a farm colony to be managed by and for colored people of Rochester. It is expected that the laying out of the proposed tract will be undertaken early in April, as soon as weather conditions will permit getting on the ground.

The meeting on Friday evening will take up the question of location and will consider the merits of three possible sites. The land most favored is a farm of 260 acres lying close to the Genesee River south of the city, but on low ground, which in extraordinary seasons may be subject to inundation. Statistics examined for a period of sixty years, however, have shown that the land is overflowed only once in thirty or more years, on an average; so that the danger is considered negligible. Another tract which is highly favored is of 100 acres, in the town of Irondequoit. That land would be adaptable to the purposes of the association, though not so large as desired. The third tract, of 130 acres, is some miles out toward Syracuse and is not seriously considered at this time.

Capital Is Ready.

Capital to the amount of $80,000 will be required to start the project, and that already has been offered by a Rochester financial institution on easy terms of repayment.

According to Rev. L. B. Brown, pastor of Mt. Olivet Baptist Church, who is one of the prime movers in the project, it is proposed to settle 200 colored families on the tract, which will be suitably apportioned. All the families will devote a part of their time to market gardening and intensive farming under competent direction. A few of the families are already in this city; others are coming in the spring from Georgia and Florida; a number are Rochester colored people who have never been south, but who are anxious to take advantage of the opportunity offered for self improvement.

THE ODD FELLOWS FARM IS MAKING MONEY.

Atlanta Independent

10/27/17

After all the setbacks and obstacles put in the way of our farming interest at Odd Fellow City, it is indeed gratifying to know that the farm has proved a money-maker this year. The success obtained this year is but the verification of the assertion that perseverance conquers all things.

One day last week the D. G. S., Brother B. J. Davis and the D. G. M. went to the farm to have the first settlement with Brother Andrew Lindsay who farms on shares, and found that he had six bales of cotton in the warehouse at Jeffersonville, which he wished to sell and pay his debts. The cotton brought $836.99, and after paying all his debts he placed in the bank to his credit $391, clear from debts, a saving from his first sales.

And from the share belonging to the Order and the money he paid for his account, the D. G. S. mailed a check to the Receiver, Mr. Branch, for $645.99. It is a certainty that Brother Lindsay will make a thousand dollars ($1,000.00) for his share this year and the Order will share just as well. All the Order's money will go into the Endowment Bureau to help pay our death claims. Who knows how much would be coming into our Endowment Funds now to help pay our claims if we had been left alone to work out our own progress as we started?

Brother Lindsay is an excellent farmer and he is making good and is also making money for the Order. It was our intention to have had several farmers located on our farm by this time and have a great farming interest in full glow at Odd Fellow City. We were hindered somewhat, as you know, in our efforts, but we are now in running order again and we shall begin with renewed energy with a determination to help many deserving brethren and their families at our farm and thereby make the farm a great profit to the Order.

Brother Lindsay sets the example of living at home on the farm. He made his flour, he has a fine prospect for potatoes; he made a fine crop of peas and peanuts and he says he will gather 300 bushels of corn and an abundance of forage for feeding his stock next year. He has hogs to kill for next year's meat, his cows supply plenty of milk and butter and his yar[illegible] full [illegible] chickens and child-[illegible]

[illegible]nt is made [illegible]der

MONTGOMERY-BOOZE FACTION LOSES IN MOUND BAYOU MUNICIPAL SUIT.

The Freeman nov 24,

11/24/17

B. H. Creswell, mayor, representing what is known as the Banks-Francis faction, was sustained by Judge W. A. Alcron in his holdover suit of the town of Mound Bayou as mayor.

This is the famous case in which I. T. Montgomery sought to have the present officials put out of office, and recommended his son-in-law, E. P. Booze, for mayor. The present officers, who were holding over at the time, refused to quit, notwithstanding the attempt of Governor Bilbo to remove them, whereupon quo warranto proceedings were instituted, which resulted in a decision by the trial judge which practically means that Booze had been appointed without authority, and was, therefore, illegal.

As a matter of fact, the contestants have never been in office or executed any of the functions of the administration beyond opening a place for an office, having some books printed and issuing proclamations.

The Creswell administration was represented by Messrs. Owens & Roberts & Clark, of which Hon. T. S. Owens, one of the leading lawyers of the state, is the senior member. B. A. Green, of Mound Bayou, was associate counsel.

The New York Age 1/4/17

$500.000 PLANT FOR MICHIGAN NEGRO TOWN

(Special to THE NEW YORK AGE.)

DETROIT, MICH.—The Central Michigan Coal Co., headed by B. F. Goodrich and [illegible] Stanley Ford, has closed a lease on a $500,000 factory in Marlborough, Michigan's colored town, for the manufacture of fertilizers, peat and other alkali products. The company will employ all Negro labor, about 500 men to be on the pay roll.

The sale was made through the O. D. Ford Realty Co. and the Marlborough Land Corporation. S. Lynn Cochrane is to be sales manager for Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia, and E. H. Thomas will cover Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee, Missouri and Iowa. The company is casting around for a competent superintendent, paymaster and engineer.

Operations are to begin early in the spring and the minimum capacity of the plant is to be 100 tons per day.

Towns — 1917

21

8-1-17

Top Plaindealer

The Bright Side of Oklahoma

A Story of a Month's Sojourn Among a Thrifty, Enterprising People.

TAFT, OKLA.

Taft is a colored town, located on the M. O. & G. railroad. Here may be found a colored depot agent, ticket agent and telegraph operator. The Orphans' Home and Deaf and Dumb Asylum is located here. Prof. J. R. Johnson is superintendent. This school is situated on something like 200 acres of ground, a beautiful site in a commanding position. There is a large three-story brick buliding with about fifty rooms, and an administration building, where the president and his family live, a large frame building with twenty-five rooms, which was the first one erected. A large cattle barn, sheds and other outbuildings are on the grounds.. The land is all under cultivation and well stocked and furnishes ample work for the children. Mrs. Ingram, the matron, is to be commended for the splendid condition of the institution; every room is neat and clean and is kept that way year in and year out. It can not be denied that Prof. Johnson is the right man for the place. He is thoroughly in love with the institution and its inmates and gives strict attention to all details of the institution. He is a man who doesn't need to be told how to run the school, but has worked out all the details himself, and so well that when the state funds are insufficient to feed and clothe the inmates he has originated a plan whereby he can use the children in raising large cotton crops for the school, giving employment to many, and the money earned goes toward feeding and clothing the inmates, thereby making up the deficiency in the funds appropriated by the state, for, as Oklahoma is a new state, funds are not available at all times to carry on these institutions as they should be conducted. The sytem used by Prof. Johnson is commendable and the state is profiting by this plan.

The state will soon build a new industrial school for boys here, doing away with the present one at McAlester, and it will be partially under the supervision of Prof. Johnson. The governor and the state board of supervision gave Prof. Johnson a clean bill for honesty and efficiency and acknowledges that there is not another institution in all Oklahoma conducted on as neat and business-like plan as is this one.

If the colored people of Taft would make the proper effort, that town would be one of the best in the state. They are badly in need of a bank. The town has a few grocery stores and there are two general merchandise stores for colored people located here. Mr. Wm. Sands is manager of a lumber company and is doing well.

* * *

BOYNTON.

The colored people around this community are chiefly farmers.

In the town Dr. Pinney has one of the largest drug stores in the city, is doing a fine business and enjoying a fine practice. Roy Williams of St. Louis has just recently accepted the position of pharmacist in this store.

Dr. I. McCarter is the veterinary and has been there six years. He is doing well.

There is one undertaker in the town in the person of Rev. Lee.

Mr. T. C. Cleveland, who terms himself the "barbecue king" of Boynton, says he is prepared to open up a large business and wants the people around that country to write or call upon him for barbecued meats.

In the city are two tailoring shops, blacksmith shops, a garage, and an ordinary school building on which lots of improvements could be made.

There is a fine class of colored people here and all seem to be prospering.

* * *

OKMULGEE.

Here we found a real live town—lots of colored people and they own much property. Many are engaged in business, and nearly all is on one street. There are several two and three story buildings.

The race is chiefly engaged in the grocery business, and there is one undertaking establishment, managed by Rev. Hoard, formerly of Topeka. He and his wife also conduct a retail grocery store.. Rev. Hoard has purchased a fine two story brick building and his many friends in Kansas will be pleased to know that he is doing well. His wife is a lady well versed in business and is making a success.

We met our old friend J. H. Williamson, who was in Okmulgee before it was a town and is now enjoying the fruits of his labor. He owns some real good property, owes no man and calls no man master. He is a real friend of the race and is one of the pioneers who did much to encourage the newcomers who came to that now prosperous town.

There is one nice drug store in Okmulgee, several practicing physicians, one dentist, two blacksmiths and two contractors.

This is the home of J. B. Keyes, the man who owns one solid business block and receives a large income each month.

There are several nice large brick churches in the town, and a brick school building is now being erected, but it is not near large enough for the population. The greatest objection we have is the location, as it is surrounded by a lot of white and colored assignation houses. We have written the mayor of the city to move the white prostitutes to a district where the white schools are located and only leave the colored rubbish to disgrace the colored schools of this district. This will be bad enough without having the white trash and colored rubbish all mixed to demoralize this institution. If the colored people would get busy in the town and wake up they could remedy all these evils, but as long as they remain idle and allow prejudiced white men to put this over them, just so long will they continue to do so.

Mr. Jackson, who conducts a barber shop and owns a two story brick building and one of the finest bungalows in that part of the state, is to be commended upon the great struggle he has made. He came to this town with but 75 cents, but is fast coming to the front and within the next few years will be worth ten or fifteen thousand dollars, without a penny against him. His is one of the finest barber shops in that part of the country and he owns the two story building in which it is located.

The colored people of Okmulgee need to get down to business. They ought to have a large dry goods store and laundry. In all these Oklahoma towns there should be colored laundries, and persons who know this business would do well to go to these towns and open up such business. It would give employment to many men and women of the race.

There are several lawyers and contractors at Okmulgee.

* * *

WELEETKA.

At Weleetka we spent a few hours. It is here that the colored people have no school building. The white people are either so ornery or the colored people so slothful, that there is no building; the fault is either with one or both. No effort is being made on the part of the teachers of the public schools for the erection of a building. We think it is a shame and disgrace that the teachers of this school do not protest and insist on a school building, even if they sacrifice their present jobs. It is better to have a school at all hazards.

This is the town where you change cars for Clearview and Boley. Here is conducted a hotel by a lady who gives first class accommodations. This city is where Chief Sam held his sway and broke up hundreds of families who had good homes and farms and are now wandering over the country. Just out of Weleetka on the banks of the creek there are several families living in tents and huts, with half clad children, who were left from Chief Sam's tribe which started or Africa. They are pitiable looking sights, and some Christian organization should go among them and do something to relieve their condition. A person viewing these conditions would think he was in the wilds of Africa. Let the progressive colored people look after these unfortunates and see that they are allowed to come back into real life again. This is the fruits of being led by loud-mouthed, ignorant persons whose sole purpose is to gain reputation and money for themselves. The action of Chief Sam has taught the people a wholesome lesson never to be forgotten. Those who did go are now begging money to return to their homes in this country. If the colored people would read more colored newspapers and listen to the substantial men of their communities these wild-eyed strangers could not come into their communities and lead them astray. The country has now nearly recovered from this fiasco and the colored people are getting down to business.

* * *

CLEARVIEW.

We stopped at Clearview a few hours. This is a colored town. There are several stores well stocked with dry goods, notions and groceries, as well as one drug store and a nice boarding house.

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BOLEY.

This is the real, real

Oklahoma and it is certa

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population of over 1500, all co

people. Here you will find a bank, with the president and clerks doing business like any Kansas City banking house. There are business houses of all descriptions—hardware, dry goods and grocery stores—water works, electric lights and good schools, nice homes, and as intelligent class of people as there is in any city in the United States. They are all loyal to the town. We were there three days and never heard a cross word nor saw a fight, except when two old ladies on the outskirts of the town engaged in a neighboorhood quarrel in a back yard. They were airing each other's characters and that only amused and attracted the attention of their neighbors.

All the business places are as up-to-date as in any city you might visit, and one dry goods store on Saturdays employs from fifteen to twenty extra clerks. The patrons of the town are white, Indian and colored. The streets were thronged and everybody was talking business. This is the first place we ever visited and met so many people all talking business. Had it been in Kansas City or Topeka they would all have been talking about some white man's bank or some white man's political job, or something which they could not even look into, but here in Boley

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Colored people are known to
and live well, and Mr. Hazel is
prepared for them. He is assisted by his good wife, who is a splendid business woman. Mr. Hazel is a wide awake young man and a booster for Boley. Everybody likes him and he likes everybody, and has no enemies anywhere in the world.

Boley should be proud of its post master, Caesar F. Simmons. He is certainly a wide awake business man and works for Boley and Boley alone—that is his only hobby. to build up that town and not "Simmons." He is not at all selfish; all he wants to do is to take care of the people and have a first class postoffice, which he has, and there is none better conducted anywhere in the United States. No mail is laid around in the office that should be delivered. He sees to it that everyone gets his mail and if the white people were as careful about this matter of people getting their mail, Uncle Sam nor anyone else would have any complaint. Mr. Simmons is a thorough race man and believes in the uplift of his people.

We met S. J. King, the cotton buyer and ginner. Last year he ginned over twelve hundred bales. He is a prosperous business man, honest and upright, which accounts for his success.

We met our old friend McRiley

nity, who are landmarks of
y and are doing much to keep
city on the map.

We stopped at the Commercial hotel, of which Mrs. Berry is the proprietor. Boley has three hotels and several boarding houses.

Judge O. H. Bradley is one of the live wires of the town. He is an undertaker and justice of the peace. Mrs. Bradley, his wife, is one of the school teachers.

We advise people who want a good place to live and enjoy life to go to Boley and help build it up. Boley needs a large commission house. It is an agricultural town and as soon as the people learn to raise more cattle and hogs the town will be better off.

THE COLOR QUESTION.

The Governor Settles Some Municipal Troubles in an Exclusive Negro Town in Mississippi—Chas. Banks Out.

The Dallas Express

Below we reproduce a news item which while a moon old will prove of interest. It tells the story of the inability of the Colored man to settle his own differences without calling in the white man. The story runs this way: 2/17/12

Jackson, Miss., Jan. 31.—Among the visitors of note at the State Capital today was Isaiah T. Montgomery, probably the best known and most intelligent Negro in Mississippi, founder of the town of Mound Bayou, which is peopled, governed and built up exclusively by Negroes. Isaiah Montgomery was the only member of his race who was a member elected to the Constitutional Convention of 1890, as delegate from Bolivar County. He was here to consult the Governor and Attorney-General relative to the internal political affairs of Mound Bayou, claiming that a kind of ring has gotten control of the municipal affairs, which declines to be ousted or to retire; yet their retirement, he feels sure, would be for the best of the community.

In a general and material way he reports the people in this section to be in first-class shape materially, with increased bank savings and deposits, and a cotton crop very little short of the last previous season, which has brought good prices, while food and forage crops have also been gratifying.

Montgomery was accompanied to Jackson by B. S. Mount of Merigold, a well known attorney, formerly of Vicksburg, who went with him before the Governor and Attorney-General and showed that the psuedo set of officials said to represent Charles Banks' faction has succeeded in self-perpetuating themselves. They had failed to provide for the proper registration of voters and in other ways had thrown obstacles in the way of the voters themselves making the changes necessary or holding an election according to law.

The Attorney-General ruled that under the conditions described the Mound Bayou municipal offices were vacant and that the town was virtually without legal head or directing body.

Later in the day Gov. Bilbo issued his proclamation setting forth the alleged state of facts and appointing a set of provisional officers who will supersede the psuedo officers now claiming the seats of adminstration.

The new officers are appointed by the Governor today, whose commissions are immediately effective, are: Eugene Booze, Mayor, succeeding H. C. Cresswell; George Moore, Marshall, succeeding Charles Williams; H. H. Powell, R. W. Hood, Edward Threadgill, R. M. McCorkle and Reuben Brooks, succeeding the quintette which, as stated, is said to represent the Banks faction, which is now down and out, according to the Montgomery clan.

ANDY, THE NEGRO TOWN—MUCH ENTERPRISE.

Dallas Express
10/27/12

Andy, Texas, Oct. 22.—The town of Andy in Cherokee county, shows every sign of prosperity and progress. It has a steam gin and corn meal mill. A [illegible] being built, a hall, three general stores, a restaurant, school and money is being collected to build a beautiful (Rocky Hill) church. Pastor J. C. Brown conducted a rally Sunday at which over $300 in cash was raised. Among those who contributed were the following: A. L. Arnwine, $20; D. W. Thomas, $20; Jno. Bragg, $20; J. W. McClendon, $10; J. A. McClendon, $11.50; M. L. Arnwine, $5; Monroe Johnson, $10; H. W. Burton, $10; D. W. Davis, $10; B. Sneed, $5; I. W. Williams, $5; Jessie Davis, $5; Sunday school$40; Mission Society, $43; Madams C. Billups, $1.15; M. Bell Sneed, $1.90; Amanda Arnwine, $3.20; Jessie Crist, $4.30; Lille Hall, $5; Lula Bragg, $7; Lizzie McClendon, $23.50; Sarah Ewell, $37.60. Bros. J. A. McClendon, $7; A. H. Earlet, $9; Public collection $169. Mr. A. L. Arnwine is clerk of the church. Hon. H. L. Price will represent the Express here in future. Mrs. Price and daughter, with Vame of Palestine, were here Sunday. Editor W. E. King, spoke here Sunday. School opened today with Mrs. W. B. Lattiemore in charge. Among the progressive young farmers here none are more worthy of mention than Monroe Johnson, who owns the best double team and rig in the country.

LOTS FOR SALE!

Another Big Negro Development

Wilson Park

Daily Herald 11-9-17

Open to Our Race. 19 Acres, 200 Lots, 6 New Cottages with alll conveniences; Hot Water Heat, Electric Lights, Large Porch Fronts.

The smallest lots are 25 ft. x 112 ft. Owned by one of our leading business men of Baltimore City, **Mr. HARRY O. WILSON**

This beautiful site is located 3 squares east of the beautiful Guilford, on the York Road. There is no low or marsh land on this magnificient site. It is 400 feet above sea level overlooking Baltimore City. Five cents car fare, 10 minutes ride from City Hall. The prices of lots range from $300 up. Cottages from $1,600 up.

Take York Road Car and get off at Arlington Avenue and York Road. Go East 3 squares, and you will find the beautiful site on the left upon the hill. You may secure any of these lots or cottages on easy terms from the following agents authorized by Mr. Harry O. Wilson:

Philip Pratt, 1322 Argyle Avenue, Maddison 4850-W.
Charles Tolson, 506 Baker Street, Madison 1713-J.
Gross-Grant Company, 2031 Division Street, Madison 4138-J.
George R. Parron, 1900 White Street, Gilmore 2185-W.
Charles E. Williams, 1429 Argyle Avenue, Madison 3969-W.
Nelson Williams, 1429 Argyle Avenue, Madison 3969-W.
Samuel E. Robinson, 1721 Baker Street, Madison 3657-J.
G. Russell Waller, Jr., 1800 McCulloh Street, Madison 2418-J.
Arthur L. Johnson, 1415 Myrtle Avenue, Madison 3664-W.
Allen & Tibbs, Real Estate Brokers, 1117 N. Carey Street, Madison 1856-J. 403 N. Mount-S.
J. Howard Tolson, 1057 Argyle Avenue, St. Paul 7346.
Isaiah Smith, 1128 Russell Street, St. Paul 7346.

N Y C AMERICAN
JULY 22, 1917

MODEL VILLAGE FOR IMBRIE WORKERS

Plot Laid Out at Port Wentworth, Near Savannah, Ga.

A model town for workmen is to be built under direction of William Morris Imbrie & Co., the plot to be laid out at Port Wentworth, near Savannah, Ga., it was announced yesterday. Imbrie & Co. have financed several industrial concerns located at this point. A statement says:

"Charles W. Leavitt, architect, has prepared the plans, and the actual work of construction will be carried forward under his direction. Mr. Leavitt has recently completed model cities at Wilmington, Del.; St. Helena, Md., near Baltimore, and at other points.

"Port Wentworth City will be erected to provide convenient and comfortable homes at a nominal expense for the workmen at the nearby Port Wentworth Terminal, which is owned by the Savannah & Atlanta Railway.

"The plan of the city, which will have its own water supply, sewerage system and lighting plant, calls for a white and negro village on opposite sides of the Savannah River, with separate schools, community stores, Churches, parks and moving picture theatres. All the cottages will be of frame construction, and the white village will be of Colonial style of three, five, six and eight rooms. In the colored district there will be 250 two-room bungalows. Two modern hotels will also be erected in the main city for the accommodation of transients.

"Open air school classes for the children will be provided."

Towns — 1918

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The Negroes Opportunity.

CUNEY, TEXAS

Cuney.

The INDUSTRIAL NEGRO TOWN.

The Dallas Express march 9, 1918

WHAT IS IT?

It is an industrial Negro town—a place where the Negro can own his own home, establish and build up his own commercial and industrial institutions, thereby furnishing employment and business training for his own sons and daughters, and where he can be governed by his own people.

WHERE IS IT?—It is located in Cherokee County on the T. & N. O. Railroad ten miles west of Jacksonville, Texas, near the Neches river at the railroad station of Andy.

MANAGEMENT OF THE TOWNSITE—The townsite is owned by the Andy Realty Company, and will be managed by the President of this Company, H. L. Price, formerly of Palestine, Texas, who is one of the best known business men among our people in Texas. Mr. Price has been connected with the real estate business in some way for twenty-five years. He was manager of the Palestine Loan Company for more than six years; cashier of the Farmers and Citizens Savings Bank of Palestine, Texas, for eight years and secretary of the Texas Negro Business League for the past seven years. His long and varied experience in business will assure the careful management of this townsite.

PLAN OF THE TOWN—We have decided to build a modern up-to-date town here for Negroes and by Negroes. As soon as the town is large enough to incorporate, we will have our own city government and our own ofofficers. We have a local Building and Loan Association that will help those who need help to build homes after they have paid for their lots. Arrangements will be made to secure farmlands for those who want to buy and locate near Cuney. We will assist and encourage the building of a canning factory, a saw mill, a shingle mill, planing mill, a box and crate factory, a brick yard and other industries that will give employment to our people.

LOCATION—In seeking a location for this townsite we sought a place where cheap fuel could be had, ample railroad, shipping facilities, a progressive Negro community and good land for trucking, stock raising and general farming. All of these we found at Cuney, and the fertile valleys of the Neches river, Jordan Creek, Flat Creek and Caddo Creek, all of which lay within three miles of Cuney.

PLAN OF HANDLING THE TOWNSITE—The land in Cuney, has been plotted into business and residence lots which are being sold for cash and on the easy payment plan, without interest and without taxes until after maturity. The greater portion of the net proceeds from the sale of these lots will be re-invested in the townsite in the way of building homes, stores, hotels and other permanent improvements. By continually re-investing greater part of the net proceeds from the sale of lots and houses this town will grow much faster than other towns that did not follow this method. These lots have rapidly grown in value and they are selling fast. Buy your lot now before the next rise in prices. These lots will not be on the market much longer. Buy now, today.

YOUR DUTY—If you want to live in or around a town where you can enjoy the fullest measure of freedom and manhood, if you want to live where you can serve God under your own vine and fig tree, if you want to rear your children where they can enjoy every privilege enjoyed by any one else; if you want to put your strength where the profits from your dollars will make business opportunities for your own sons and daughters, come to Cuney, and help to make this the greatest opportunity maker for the race in the world.

A GUARANTY STATE BANK—We are planning the organization of a Guaranty State Bank at Cuney, to take care of the fall cotton and cotton seed trade. To organize a State Bank here only requires a cash capital of $10,0000.00. Nearly all of this amount has already been subscribed. As the deposits of this bank will be guaranteed by the State, it will thrive like a green bay tree, and will furnish the capital to foster and develop our other various commercial and industrial enterprises. We want you to buy a few shares in the bank.

WHAT WE HAVE AT CUNEY—We already have at Cuney, the following business enterprises: 1 cotton gin, that ginned 650 bales last year; 1 corn mill, 3 general stores, 2 restaurants, a Masonic hall, flag station on the T. & N. O. Railroad, 1 large shipping shed, 3 cotton seed warehouses, 1 doctor, 1 real estate agency, 1 notary public, 1 barber shop, 1 blacksmith shop, a postoffice with a Negro postmaster, 1 hotel, 1 drug store, 1 rooming house, telephone connection, a large shipping trade in hard wood, pine and gum blocks; 1 church, 1 public school with 150 pupils, nearly all of the leading secret fraternities, an abundance of good freestone water, 3 grades of brick clay, 1 river, 3 creeks, 5 lakes, and an abundance of fish and game.

SOME THINGS WE NEED—We need a number of prosperous Negro farmers to buy up the farm lands laying from two to ten miles of Cuney. Shipping agent to handle the truck and other produce raised by our farmers. At least two intelligent wide awake cotton buyers to buy the 2,000 bales of cotton raised around Cuney. Two cotton seed buyers to handle the cotton seed trade. One saw mill, one planning mill, one shingle mill, one Guaranty State Bank, one modern brick plant, one box and crate factory, one tin shop, one experienced lawyer, one dentist, one first-class seamstress and milliner, one real good music teacher, one hardware store, one furniture store, a good old line Fire Insurance Agency, an up-to-date photographer. Last, but by no means not least, we need 10,000 living, breathing boosting Negro citizens to locate in and around Cuny, and make it a bee hive of activity, where the highest grade of American citizenship will be developed. About one-half of the lots have been sold. Building has already begun and will proceed rapidly from now on in Cuney. The crops around Cuney were the best in years and its future success is assured. Plans are under way for securing chemical engines for fire protection. All Colored persons desiring to buy lots in Cuney or to buy farm lands near Cuney, will please write to H. L. Price, the president and manager of the Andy Realty Company, who will give you the desired information promptly. Persons coming to Cuney, by railroad, will call for a ticket to Andy, so that you can get off right in town. When convenient write us before you come so that we can meet you and show you over the townsite. Remember that the only way that we can demonstrate to the world that we can build, own and govern a city is for us to get together and do so. We have made the start, come over and help us.

YOURS FOR THE RACE.

WORTHY COLORED MEN!

OPPORTUNITY OF YOUR LIFE TO OWN A RICH BOTTOM FARM.

The [illegible] Vanguard
Oct 5-18

We have just opened 10,000 acres of the richest bottom land to be found between Little Rock and Pine Bluff, in what is known as the "Richwoods" district and within 4 miles of ALLPORT, an exclusive Colored town on the Cotton Belt railroad This fine tract has been sub-divided into 40 acre tracts and you can buy as much as you feel able to pay for. There is not an acre of waste land and every foot can be cultivated.

These lands are rich and fertile as the delta of the Mississippi river, well drained and as healthy as the highest points of the state. The finest water can be had at from 20 to 30 feet. The best schools and any church of your choice are near by. There were located last year on part of these lands over 400 families that now have nice comfortable homes and from 5 to 20 acres in fine growing crops, the very picture of prosperity and happiness. The few that were fortunate enough to buy lands 5 or 6 years ago have grown wealthy and are riding in their own automobiles.

Any of this land will raise a bale of cotton or 75 bushels of corn, 30 bushels of wheat per acre. Alfalfa grows well on these lands and easily cuts 5 crops in one season. There are two hardwood manufacturing plants near these lands that will give you work to do every day in the year if you desire, at from $2.50 to $3.00 for common labor up to $6.00 for skilled labor. The low prices on these fine bottom lands for the next 30 days will be $35.00 to $40.00 per acre on terms of $5.00 per acre cash down, balance $5.00 per acre each year at 6 per cent. Liberal discount for all cash will be allowed. Perfect title guaranteed and warranty deeds given when full payment is made. This property will be shown at any time and the correct lines given by our surveyor when wanted. Plats can be seen and particulars given from either officers. Write or call on,

COCKMON-BAXLEY, allport, arkansas

521 1-2 Main Street, Little Rock, Ark.
Next to Hotel England, England, Arkansas.

GOOD LIVE AGENTS WANTED, GOOD PAY.

OKLAHOMA CITY OKLA TIMES
APRIL 9, 1918

Boley, Okla

Town of Negroes, 6 Miles From Polls, Gets Voting Place

Citizens of the town of Boley, which is composed entirely of negroes, are to have an election precinct as the result of a decision of the supreme court today. A mandamus action against the county election board requiring the establishment of a voting precinct as provided by law was sustained by the court.

The election precinct in which Boley now is situated is eight miles long and six to nine miles wide. The voting place is situated on the extreme west line of the district at a small place called Paden. Boley is on the extreme east side of the district and is one of the large towns of Okfuskee county having cast 208 votes at the last municipal election.

The law provides that a voting precinct shall not contain more than 200 voters except in case of extreme necessity. It was on this ground that it was necessary for citizens of that town to go more than six miles to the polls in order to vote in a state election.

BOOZE LOSES CONTEST IN MOUND BAYOU

The New York Age
Aug 23-18

(Special to The New York Age.)

Mound Bayou, Miss.—At a regular municipal election held here this week, Eugene P. Booze was again defeated by the present incumbent, B. H. Creswell, for Mayor of the Town of Mound Bayou, together with the entire Administration ticket, by a vote of 2 to 1.

Mr. Booze has been trying to get into office here for several years, and he once ran for Alderman and received only 13 votes. Later, he secured from the Governor, appointment as Mayor in an effort to oust the present Administration, but also lost that in the courts.

Mound-Bayou Miss.

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BANKS-CRESWELL FACTION VICTORIOUS

Oct 6 1918

(Special to The New York Age.)

Mound Bayou, Miss.—The Supreme Court of Mississippi has decided in favor of the Banks-Creswell faction in the controversy for mayor of Mound Bayou. Twelve months ago the Governor of Mississippi sided with the Booze faction, naming Mr. Booze mayor. Attorney Perry W. Howard took the matter into the courts for the Banks-Creswell faction, securing a decision for his clients in the highest court of the State.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE

Christian Recorder
5-30-18

I attended the New York Annual Conference at Elmira, N. Y., last week. This little town is in the south-central part of the state. It has about 40,000 whites and about 800 colored people. The colored people have an A. M. E., A. M. E. Zion, Baptist Church, and I was told an Episcopalian Church also. The colored people of the town seem very unprogressive, though in times past I was informed that a progressive element was there. Elmira impressed me as the type of small town where our people are allowed to degenerate. They have only the hardest and most menial kind of work; the politicians as a rule wink at their delinquencies; the so-called good people shun them, while the saloon keeper and the brothal inmates welcome them. When the first generation of Negroes who came from slavery died, they left a generation largely undisciplined and wreckless. They have no respect for the church, or for themselves. They sink to the lowest level of poverty and are easy victims of immorality, dishonesty and vice. The third generation now in school, who are to be the women and men of to-morrow, are a still further degeneration. Born of weak and undiscip-

(over)

lined parents, reared in poverty and vice, divorced from church and Sunday school, only tolerated in the week day schools and looked upon by the community at large as outcasts, this young whiskey drinking, gambling, brawling generation of lazy Negroes constitute the greatest menace of the race. I am not accusing Elmira of having all these vices, but more nearly than any city I have ever visited did this city so impress me.

Through the North, more than in the South, one finds communities of degenerated Negroes, with just enough education to help on their degeneration. Had I left Elmira on Saturday night. I would have done myself and the city an injustice. But Sunday was truly a great day for Elmira, and for me. On Sunday Bishop Ross preached in the morning and did some evangelistic work in the afternoon and night, and seven strong men of Elmira came forward and enrolled for Jesus Christ. "Elmira can be stirred" I said. But while 29 persons stood up, stating that they were not Christians, or belonged to no church, and 15 of these were women, not a single woman came to the altar, while nine out of 14 men came forward. The charges which Bishop Ross made against the ramparts of the devil appeared terrible enough to shatter the defense of any sinner, but the women merely wept and sat down. The men, like true soldiers, came forward, some in a rush, some with tears, all in seriousness. When Bishop Ross asked "Men, will you be slackers?" one man rushed forward, saying, "No, I never was a slacker." So Elmira can be stirred. But the pity of it is that Bishop Ross must leave. Our church should consider the sad plight of the few hundred poor people in all these little towns, and should form some method of cooperation with the other churches and the business interests to see if something cannot be done for these backward communities.

The conference met on Friday and adjourned Sunday night. Heretofore it has met on Wednesday. Two days were saved. Bishop Tyree was accompanied by Mrs. Tyree, Bishop

Continued on Page Five.

Incomplete

MOUND BAYOU.

Elsewhere in this issue will be seen a communication from Eugene P. Booze, of Mound Bayou, Miss., and his associate officials. It speaks for itself and we hope as the circumstances were and are today. Mound Bayou is a town of colored people. It was founded by the well known Isaiah T. Montgomery, one of the leading colored men of that state. Not only is he a leading colored citizen, but, from all accounts, much respected by the white people, and with whom he has considerable influence. It was owing to this influence, in part, that he was able to carve Mound Bayou out of the wilderness of Mississippi.

6-29-18

The Freeman

Paper

Perhaps the little town is not the largest of the distinctly colored settlements, nor does it flourish so well by way of industries and by increasing numbers as two or three others, but somehow Mound Bayou has come in for more fame than any other of the similar communities. This, one would think, is due to the personnel of the founder and those with whom he was intimately associated at the "building" of the city.

One of the leading spirits at the beginning of Mound Bayou was Charles Banks and who until this time continues a leading spirit. Both Mr. Montgomery and Mr. Banks were a few years ago what were called powerful politicians of their state. They were among the big colored men of the south. They were delegates to the big national Republican conventions. In fact, they did everything big. They conducted a bank, they organized a big cotton mill concern with a proposed $100,000 capital stock. They were on good terms with Booker T. Washington, and were faithful to the yearly league meetings of the colored business men. In other ways they claimed attention from the general nation, and thus the little city readily climbed to first-rate importance—owing to the personnel of its founders.

Since the beginning of the city, more than twenty years ago, it has had its ups and downs, owing principally to its ambition, the ambition of the leading men, and not without reason for at one time Mound Bayou promised to become a sort of race Mecca. When the platform speaker wished to make an impression as to the race's prosperity, that city was on the tip end of his tongue; it stood for the supposed Negro governing genius in answer to the wholesale charge of political or civic incapacity. It was the Negro hub in embryo, where all things were in the diminutive, simply awaiting the developing years. Genius was not wanting—time was the element, so thought, that would erect the creeping ville into that status where it would class with other progressive cities, and without particular earmarks as to the brand of its citizens.

Without disparagement to Mound Bayou, we may say that the hopes for it in most respects have not been realized. The industries have not kept the pace with which they began. The colored people who were once greatly inspired by the thought of a community where members of the race figured in every walk of life, began to doubt the promised Eldorado, and the tide of emigration, which was tending that way, halted.

The town lingers on, and, perhaps, worthily so. There are sleeping communities in our country other than Mound Boyou, Mississippi. The charge against that city is that it would not live up to its opportunitty. However, there was bequeathed a spirituality political which serves to keep the locality in the limelight, and thereby hangs a tale. More than once leaders of the community have plunged into the courts of the state in order to discover who had the right to the offices. There have been various combinations and factions and which sought from time to time to oust other factions and combinations. The hope that Mound Bayou would demonstrate great things is well nigh gone.

At one time there was a Banks faction arrayed against a Montgomery faction. At this time there's a Banks-Cresswell faction, and which has, according to Mr. Booze and his associates, won technically a decision of some kind in the supreme court.

We are not prepared to enter into the merits of the quarrel. We did publish a rather anonymous statement, forwarded to this office, of the court's decision in the issue of last week, and which, according to Mr. Booze, was misleading. We wish to be fair to either faction, and we have no reason to be otherwise. Mr. Booze takes us to task for publishing the statement, and in the meanwhile commending our reputed stand for truthfulness and journalisitic integrity in the past.

We hope Mr. Booze and his associates and also the Banks-Cresswell faction will continue their good opinions of us. Our object has only been to give the news. It is generally possible to tell when we are imposed on in such matters. This is not so easy if there are designing persons who practice the fine art of deceiving. It is not much of a trick to deceive an individual. And the reason is that the world is more honest than otherwise; it is not on the lookout for sharpers.

The Freeman is very anxious to maintain its old place as strictly reliable. It does not see one faction of men as above another when the purposes of all are honest. It stands ready to publish all news of value to the public or associations of individuals regardless of politics or creed. It serves the public and in doing so the object is to be as blind as that fabled godess with the balances in her hand. In view of all this, it ought to appear plain that the confidence should not will be present.

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✓ Mound Bayou, Miss

Towns – 1918

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MOUND BAYOU CONTROVERSY

Freeman

6-29-18

BANKS-CRESWELL FACTION WINS ONLY TECHNICALLY — SUPREME COURT RULES IT MUST GIVE AN ACCOUNTING.

MOUND BAYOU, Miss., June 18.—As readers of your paper, we have just read in your issue of the 15th instant, on the front page, under the caption, "Booze Loses Once Again," which article purports to give Attorney Perry W. Howard credit for the decision of the Supreme Court in Mound Bayou mayoralty contest.

No, Mr. Editor, your paper is regarded by every Negro in the United States as a source of reliable information and we cannot believe you would publish any news item unless you thought the statements contained therein were true. We cannot understand how Mr. Howard or any of his friends can give him credit for this decision, because he has never been an attorney of record in the case and has never appeared in any of the hearings. His only connection with it was his efforts to restrain the governor from issuing the commissions. We wish Mr Howard could have this honor, and at we ourselves could have secured services of some able Negro lawyer to represent us and argue our side of the controversy, the important issues of which have never been duly considered by any court. The issues involved and still remain unsettled are these: An attempt by the Banks-Creswell faction to perpetuate themselves in power by failing and refusing to provide for a legal registration and an election for the inhabitants of Mound Bayou: their mismanagement of public affairs, and their refusal to render a financial account of their stewardship of public funds. The attorneys of record for the Banks-Creswell faction were Owen & Clark, of Cleveland, and Wilkinson & Thompson, of Shelby. These gentlemen are among the ablest and most expensive attorneys in the state. They knew they had a bad case, consequently they would not let the issues involved be heard on their merits before an impartial jury. So they attacked the constitutionality of the law under which the governor appointed us and secured a decision on technicalities in both the Circuit and Supreme Courts.

Happily for the people of Mound Bayou, the Supreme Court, in rendering its decision, pointed out a remedy, and you may rely upon it that no time will be lost in compelling the Banks-Creswell faction to render an accounting of their stewardship to the people of Mound Bayou.

Mr. Editor, we appeal to you to publish this statement of fact over our signatures with the same prominence you published the article referred to and thereby give the public a chance to learn the real truth about the governmental affairs of Mound Bayou.

We are, the governor's appointees respectfully yours,

Eugene P. Booze, mayor; George Moore, marshal, John Jones, treasurer; R. McCorkle, Edward Threadgill, Reuben Brooks, H. H. Powell, aldermen.

FRAUD CHARGED TO ~~NEGRO~~ 'BOSS'

Mayor and Postmaster of Langston Used Money Orders, Is Charge.

FRIENDSHIP DEPENDS

Former Leader Acquainted With Witness If He Testifies Right, He Says.

OKLAHOMA CITY OKLAHOMA
MARCH 26, 1918

"This man Allen is a friend of yours, is he not?" asked Redmond S. Cole assistant United States district attorney, of John R. Hogan, negro, former mayor of Langston, Okla., at one time a leading member of the faculty of Langston university, and a self-styled political "boss" of the community, who was on trial in the federal district court yesterday on a charge of conspiracy and forgery.

"It all depends, Mr. Cole, on what his testimony is goin' to be," he answered.

Fraud Is Alleged.

Hogan and William G. Jordon, former postmaster and who served as Hogan's treasurer when the latter was mayor of the negro town, were indicted together, charged with issuing over fifty money orders from the Langston postoffice and cashing the orders for almost $5,000.-

The former postmaster, before the trial started yesterday morning, appeared before Judge John C. Pollock and entered a plea of guilty. He became the government's star witness in the prosecution of the former mayor. The case went to the jury at 4 o'clock in the afternoon. A sealed verdict will be returned when court convenes at 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

Courtroom Filled.

The trial of the two foremost citizens of Langston attracted virtually every prominent resident of the town to Oklahoma City. The court room was filled with their friends.

The difficulty, according to Jordon's confession to the jury, came about through "high finance" plans inaugurated by the former mayor. The money orders were issued by him he said, and cashed by Hogan.

Could Fix Things.

"Mr. Hogan said that as he was the leading politician down in our town that I owed him considerable for his indorsing me for postmaster," Jordon said. "When we entered into this conspiracy, Hogan allowed that there would be no trouble, that his political strength and prestige was such that he could fix things up with our congressman so that we would not go to jail."

According to Jordon's testimony, he made out money orders for sums as high as $100 and sent them to Hogan at various cities in Oklahoma. He would make out others payable to leading citizens of Langston, turn them over to Hogan who would get the signature of the citizens to the orders and cash them and keep the money.

Fire Extinguisher, Too.

"I was just doin' a brotherly act for Mr. Jordon who done stole all the money," said Hogan when he testified. "I turned the money over to him so his reports would be correct. I done got him the 'pointment as postmaster when he didn't have a dime and now he's got a house and a modern concrete cellar and a fire extinguisher, that he done paid $300 for. If there was anybody who profited by what Mr. Cole says is irregularities at the postoffice, it sure is Mr. Jordon, not me."

"I admit cashing some of the money orders. When I was in Oklahoma City I had one and went to Claude Weaver and he identified me. On another time I was in Oklahoma City and went to Weaver's office to have him identify me so I could cash the order and he was out. I went up stairs to get the marshal to identify me and he was out. I run right smack into Mr. Hubert Bolen, the tax collector, and he identified me. Do you think I would have asked them federal officers to identify me if I knew that they was anything crooked about the money orders?"

~~NEGROES~~ PROTEST MEXICO COLONY MOVEMENT

Los Angeles Cal. Express

1/27/18

Plan of Colored Attorney Is Vigorously Opposed by Race Leaders

"The plan of Hugh McBeth, Los Angeles negro attorney, to establish colony for people of his race in Lower California has aroused a storm of protests in negro circles in Los Angeles.

While Attorney McBeth is today conferring with Esteban Cantu, governor of Lower California, and is believed to be concluding plans with the governor for the establishment of a colony, men prominent in the circles of the colored race here are preparing a vigorous protest. This protest, it is expected, will be presented to the attorney when he returns.

One of those leading the movement against the colonization scheme is C. O. Oliver, chairman of the Republican Protective league. Members of his race in Los Angeles are unanimously opposed to such a scheme, he said. They are Americans and refuse to become subjects of war-torn Mexico, he declared.

E. Burton Ceruti, one of the directors of the Los Angeles branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, another one of the leaders protesting the plan, said:

"Colonization is only another form of segregation. We are opposed to it.

"Much of our boasted progress is due to our contact and association with the dominant race. Without it we would very likely be where we started. No, the negro will have to work out his salvation right here.

"There is another and better reason why the experiment is inopportune. Our entrance into the world conflict has created a shortage in the labor market.

"This question will become more acute with each subsequent selection. The industries of America can ill afford the deportation of labor in the coming crisis."

NEW CASTLE IS A MODEL TOWN

A FINE SCHOOL IS HERE FOR COLORED PEOPLE — BEST EQUIPMENTS INSTALLED—MR. CARL McCORMACK BUSY WITH IMPROVEMENTS.

The Birmingham Reporter

12/21/18

In the Birmingham District we have many attractive businesses, businesses that offer every opportunity for a livelihood, the making of money and educational advantages for children. Birmingham is blessed in this particular more than any other one city of our country. We are surrounded with mineral resources and right at the door and heart of the city some of the most successful businesses of this nature operate. The attention of the entire American people, in no little degree is turned toward Birmingham. Birmingham in 1930 will have a population of a million people, to this there can be no doubt.

It was the pleasure of the Editor of this publication to visit recently, not a mining camp, but a mining town, ten miles from the Court House in Birmingham and reached by train, trolley car, or automobile, 30 minutes by either route will land you in the center of this thriving little mining city, known as New Castle, Alabama.

This plant is controlled by Mr. Carl McCormack, a gentleman who has studied the economic situation in mining fields, as well as the social features that go to make men happy and satisfied. We saw at New Castle church houses, not like the old church house we used to see at mining camps, but they are fast chahging to the modern times with intelligent ministers and leaders, a fine sample of manhood and womanhood that make this an ideal place to live, make money and rear families. The colored people are attracted by lodge halls, as well as by churches. They have at New Castle the modern form of lodge halls and we are told that every lodge of any note has a membership or a number in this modern mining town. But perhaps the most beautiful sight noting progress, with these modern equipments, is the school building, class rooms are arranged just as they are in the best developed colleges and city high schools. The domestic science department surpasses any that we have seen, and is the equal of any in the higher industrial schools. This department is presided over and under the direction of Mrs. Eva Greer, a well known young woman of this district and state. The equipments are all that could be expected. The girls are taught cooking, scientific cooking, which developes economy in the kitchen, prevents indigestion and prolonging life. Some of the best teachers are employed in this school, and because of the advantages offered the colored people, they are keeping thir children in school and they are being educated in a way that will make profitable and worthy citizens. We noticed that every activity, from a Red Cross Unit to a War Council was in force, and because of the kind spirit of Mr. McCormack and his associates, the colored people have understood thoroughly their position to the Government and have rolled up their quota in all the war activities just as their white neighbors and co-laborers. They have put in their time to a surprising degree and are continuing this spirit of patriotism, manhood and citizenship. This Company and its men are

Mound Bayou, Miss
negroes protest negro colony movement – in calif-
New Castle, ala.

(over)

to be congratulated for the great showing that they are making at this plant.

A GREAT CELEBRATION AT CUNEY, TEXAS, THE INDUSTRIAL NEGRO TOWN. FOUNDED BY HON. H. L. PRICE AND NAMED IN HONOR OF THE LATE HON. N. W. CUNEY.

Dallas Express

More than 2,000 people from all parts of Texas assembled at Cuney, June 19th in a great patriotic rally for the Red Cross. This was one of the greatest outpouring of Negroes ever witnessed in East Texas. The watch word every where was, "On to Cuney." 6-29-18

This thriving Negro town with its broad streets, stately shade trees, from freestone water, neat stores, beautiful dwellings, commodious hotel and rooming houses and magnificient church and school buildings, opened its doors and extended a most cordial welcome to this great mass of people.

At least 100 white citizens attended this celebration and many people came on the 18th and stayed over until the 20th, yet not one cross word was spoken on the ground. "America" and "Star Bangled Banner" were sung by the young people. Dr. E. M. Griggs, president Fannin and Citizens Savings bank, Palestine, acted as master of ceremony in his own matchless style. Welcome address, Miss Sulena M. Bragg, Cuney. Addresses were delivered by Mr. Wil Forest, (white) Jacksonville; Hon H. L. Price, Cuney; Rev. C. C. Benfort, Tyler. A recital, Miss Gladys I. Price, Cuney. A poem, Mrs. Mabel Sneed. Cuney. Nearly every person present was astonished at the most wonderful growth of this little town. One year ago it was a cotton patch. Today it is a thriving town with 5 well stretched streets, two restaurants, one barbershop, 15 rooming hotel, 10 rooming houses, blacksmith shop, postoffice, church and school houses and more than 100 thriving inhabitants. This town was founded by Hon. H. L. Price, who was for eight years cashier of Farmers' and Citizens' Savings Bank, Palestine. He is Secretary Texas Negro Business League. Mr. Price has always contended that the Negro should be a man. That since we must buy millions of dollars worth of products each year we should buy these products from our own people as far as possible. To do this we must enter every line of business opened to other races, place our own sons and daughters in charge of these business institutions and let them sell us this million of dollars worth of products instead of the other fellow.

To establish these great business institutions with our own sons and daughters, we must establish Negro towns and Negro communities. This is just what Mr. Price and his associates have done and it is now up to the Negroes of Texas to rally around this great business venture and let it be the beginning of a new era among the Negroes of Texas.

Associated with Mr. Price is John Bragg, a successful farmer, cattle buyer and gin owner. W. D. Thomas, a leading farmer and merchant, J. Z. Thomas, farmer and merchant; W. A. Hall, farmer and assitant postmaster and W. C. Price, graduate, Palestine High School, son of H. L. Price, Mr. B. F. Blaine, is able field agent for the company.

MOUND BAYOU NEGROES START SUPPLY CO

The Freeman

IG STORE THROWS OPEN ITS DOORS ON OCTOBER 19—LARGE STOCK ON HAND.

11/9/18

Special to The Freeman.

MOUND BAYOU, Miss., Nov. 6.—Several months ago Mr. Charles Banks invited a number of farmers and other business men to his office for a conference. After a free and open discussion by many present, Mr. Banks suggested the organization of a supply company with 100 persons at $200.00 each, making a total capital stock of $20,000.00. The idea was at once grasped by all present, and then and there money began to be paid to the treasurer, Mr. W. F. Davis. From time to time meetings were held and satisfactory progress was made, until on October 15 it was decided to open the store at once.

The other officers of the enterprise are: Rev. Walter Warren, president; Mr. Y. M. Stringer, salesman, and Mr. E. O. Powell, secretary. The following are members of the auditing committee: F. H. Miller, T. S. Morris, L. M. Westbrooks, B. H. Creswell and M. C. Winston. The members of the loan committee are: C. M. Bedford, Rev. A. M. Powell, Rev. C. C. aldwell, N. D. Grant, T. S. Morris, A. G. Simmons and S. A. Allen. The members of the board of directors are: Rev W. A. Northington, C. F. Bolton, Will Pipes, Benny Crossley, Bud Stiles, Rev. W. H. Thompson, L. A. Powell, Burrell Johnson and Henry Carter.

This company will certainly meet a long-felt want. All before, for the most part, the farmers and others needing supplies during the spring and summer had to go elsewhere for same; but the Mound Bayou Supply Company promises to meet this want by furnishing goods or money. From all indications as to resources, etc., this company will be the largest of its kind in the race.

Another thing which will help the community is that this company will do a cash retail business and will sell goods at the cheapest prices that the markets will afford. The business is located in the old Fisher building, north of the Mound Bayou State bank. The stock is large and fresh, and the salesman and other employes invite the public to call and inspect their goods and get their prices. Be sure and watch their ad in The Advance-Dispatch.

NEW NEGRO TOWN

Sun 6-29-18

The village of Robbins inaugurated its newly elected officers a few days ago at Jennie Smith's Hall. The entire town was out to witness the affair. It is about seven miles from the city limits of Chicago and has the distinction of being the only town in Cook county to be entirely officered by colored men.

The heads of villages in Illinois are called "presidents," and the president performs the same duties as mayors of cities. The villages have a governing body called "trustees" and the trustees perform the same duties as aldermen.

At the first election of village officers, January 1, 351918, Thomas J. Keller was chosen president and Wm. Harvey, clerk. The trustees elected were: Richard Flowers, Le Roy P. Thomas, Robert H. Bryant, Jerry Taylor, George Wineborne and Edward Brown. George J. Moore was elected police magistrate.

At the general election, April 16, 1918, all officers were re-elected except Wm. Harvey, who declined the nomination, and Charles C. Banks was elected in his stead. Walter Childs has been appointed treasurer, Edward Center, fire chief; James Coleman, chief of police.

BANKS FACTION AGAIN DEFEATS EUGENE BOOZE

The Chicago Defender

Mound Bayou, Miss., Dec. 20.—At a regular election of officers of the town of Mound Bayou held here this week Eugene P. Booze was again defeated by the present incumbent, B. H. Creswell, for mayor of the town of Mound Bayou, together with the entire administration ticket, by a vote of [illegible] to 1.

12-21-18

It will be remembered that Booze has been trying to get into office here for several years, and he once ran for alderman and received only 13 votes. Later, by misrepresentation to the governor, he secured appointment as mayor in an effort to oust the present administration, but also lost that in the courts. And now he has been decisively defeated at the polls.

Mound Bayou repudiates and refuses to place at its head any man taking the stand he took against Perry Howard for national committeeman, as well as other things obnoxious to the cit-

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TEXAS TOWN RE-NAMED

March 16, 1918. Chicago Defender

Cuney, Tex., March 15.—The town of Andy, Texas, has been granted a new postoffice and has changed its name. In the future it is to be known as Cuney ,named in honor of the great statesman, Hon. Norris Wright Cuney of Galveston. A monument is to be erected here in his honor.

TEXAS TOWN CONTROLLED BY COLORED.

Voice of Missions 1918

IT IS NOT generally known that Texas boasts of a municipality which is governed exclusively by members of the colored race. The city of Independence Heights, with a population of about seven hundred has this proud distinction.

It was set apart as self governing municipality in January, 1915, and entered upon its first fiscal year February 1, 1915. It was launched as an experiment to prove the colored citizen's ability to administer the affairs of government, and so far has justified the movement.

HAS COMMISSION FORM.

Independence Heights has the commission form of government, its elective officers being a mayor and two commissioners, who constitute the city council, which appoints the other officers. The government is distributed under the following departments: police, health, tax, finance and public improvement. G. O. Burgess is mayor; C. M. Mitchell, public improvement commissioner; H. Davis, street and bridge commissioner; M. D. Lilly, tax assessor and collector; William Cummings, treasurer; G. T. Taylor, city marshal, assisted by Policeman E. J. Eldridge, and Dr. D. S. Simmon, superintendent of health.

The public finance is appropriated to the general fund, public improvement fund and street and bridge fund; each with the departments supporting and being supported by the same being mayor and commissioners, respectively, assisted by the head of the specific departments.

FORUM OF COMMERENCE.

Larger cities may have their commercial clubs and chambers of commerce, but Independence Heights shows its progressiveness by having its Forum of Commerce, the object of which is to promote business enterprises after the pattern and by the methods employed by chambers of commerce.

BUSINESS ENTERPRISES.

And Independence Heights has its business enterprises. Among its merchants are: G. A. Allen, A. D. Sterritt, William Cummings and S. A. Brantley, who enjoy a liberal patronage. Here is also located the Beacon Light Manufacturing Company, which is capitalized entirely by colored people. Of course such a community has a school and churches, there being three of the latter.

HOME OWNERS.

A very large per cent of the inhabitants of Independence Heights are home owners and others are home buyers. Many neat homes largely of the bungalow type, house its population. It is situated on the Trinity and Brazos Valley railway, about six miles northeast of Houston, to which it is connected by a single street trolley line.

The city's present and first mayor, G. O. Burgess, is an attorney by profession, who has had an extensive practice in the Houston courts.

NEGRO FARMERS TO HOLD FAIR AT THEIR COLONY

DENVER COL POST
SEPTEMBER 19 1918

The annual fair of the negro farmers of the Dearfield settlement, near Masters, Colo., in Weld county, will be held Friday and Saturday at the town of Dearfield. A delegation of Denver negroes, headed by O. T. Jackson, founder of the colony, will leave Denver Friday morning from the Five Points to attend the fair. Judge Harrison White of the Colorado supreme court will be a speaker at the festivities, as will Ralph Voorhees o Denver, who is an official of the fe eral farm loan department, with hea quarters at Wichita, Kan. Farm pro ucts will be exhibited and the settle s will join in a celebration of thanksgi ing for the bumper crop which has bee produced this season.

Cuney, Texas
Mound Bayou, Miss
Independence Heights, Texas
Dearfield Settlement, Colo.

Towns – 1919

26

CINCINNATI O TRIBUNE
OCTOBER 26, 1919.

MODEL NEGRO COLONY PLANNED IN ARKANSAS

The "Promised Land," a community where thrift, industry and sobriety are to rule, has been founded on a 35,000 acre tract in Lonoke County, Ark. If the plans of Elder Amos, the moving spirit, works out, it is to be a Utopia for negroes—in the very State where race outrages have reached their nadir.

The Promised Land, says a recent article in The New York Evening Post, surrounds the community center that has been named Allport, to which 568 families have gone, each to take up and improve forty acres of land. Next year all business, now conducted chiefly by white people, will be in charge of negroes, the elder is confident; and law, order, religion, administration and work will come within their comprehensive province. The "bad nigger" will be relentlessly excluded or expelled. To find a haven in Allport it is necessary not only to have a first-rate character, but also to be a Southerner. The line is drawn at Northern negroes or negroes who have gone North, and there are no exceptions. In the hands of Elder Amos, who has been a leader among Arkansas negroes for many years and who has of late been going through the State holding meetings to oppose the propaganda of discord between blacks and whites, rests the responsibility of choosing the elect from the numerous applicants. He declares that he has not made a single mistake in his 568 selections to date, and he has refused "considerable."

Allport is nonsectarian, but there are certain qualifications which a prospective colonist must display if he hopes to be admitted—indeed, so solemn and rigid is the Allport code that its popularity is marvelous. There are no dancing, drinking, card-playing, crap-shooting, loafing or fighting. Funerals are the sole daylight diversion permitted, and these may be exceedingly fancy, since one of the industries is the manufacture of coffins. Elder Amos says that the colonists have their homes to pay for, and no one can pay and play at the same time. His program has been indorsed by Governor Brough of Arkansas. The Allport Industrial and Mechanical School, recently damaged by fire, is being rebuilt as a manufacturing plant which will turn out wagons and implements, but the Promised Land is primarily a farming community. The campaign for settling the land will come to a grand finish on November 21, when a three-day closing will start, enlivened by as much amusement as the colony laws sanction, but most of all by a 'possum feast.

NEGRESS DROPS DEAD WHEN DEPUTIES MAKE RAID ON NEGRO TOWN

The Montgomery Advertiser

Special To The Advertiser

ANNISTON, ALA., March 1.—Deputy sheriffs Phillips and Lee, who went to Hobson City, the exclusive negro town near Anniston, to serve a summons, started an excitement that caused a woman to drop dead and sent a man they were not looking for scurring away from his wagon and team. This was followed by the capture of a lot of whiskey in the same wagon, and the arrest of the man. Excitement due to the raid near her home caused Malinda Curry to drop dead.

3-4-19

Arthur Hughes, a young man from the mountains was arrested after the officers had dragged him from beneath a house, and Hughes' wagon was seized after five quarts of liquor were found in it.

While the excitement was on, the negro police of Hobson City arrested a white man on a charge of being drunk and disorderly and the mayor of the negro town fined him, it being the second instance of the kind in the history of the town.

RACE PROBLEM AS VIEWED IN A NEW LIGHT

9-6-19

Dr. M. M. Madden of Oklahoma City, Okla., will speak at the Coliseum, Monday, September 15, 1919. Dr. Madden will speak on the free and independent state to be formed on the Rio Grande River, 500 miles on old Mexico side and 500 miles on north side in Texas which would give 1000 square miles. You would have the Big Waters for navigation and train for transportation. Each Negro to be given 50 acres of the best land and more if cheaper, you would get $500 in cash to start with and you would get $15.00 a month as long as you live. You would make your own laws by treaty with the United States and be the same relation to the United States as Canada is to England.

Dr. Madden will explain how this can be done at the Coliseum, Monday, September 15, 1919.

MOUND BAYOU OIL MILL TO OPERATE

Mound Bayou, Miss.—The Mound Bayou Oil Mill was built several years ago at a cost of over one hundred thousand dollars. It began operation in 1913 under what looked to be favorable auspices. It suspended operation soon after the world war was in full swing, and no amount of effort was able to turn its great wheels.

7-11-19

Since the close of the war arrangements have been made for operation again this fall. Under the present arrangements successful operation is practically assured. There is great demand for cotton seed oil and products. In fact, the demand will be greater than the supply as soon as the Blockade to Germany is lifted.

There is every reason to believe this is the most profitable as well as most considerable investment the race has undertaken. The stock is owned all over the United States, few holders having as much as 100 shares.

MAYOR RECEIVES MANY BLACK HAND LETTERS

Defender

Hobson City, Ala., Sept. 26.—Mayor J. D. Kirksey of this city has received four black hand letters from moonshiners who sought to evade the law and ply their trade in the city. His activities in ridding the city of gamblers, thieves and other violators of the law has caused these forces to combine against him. It was through the operation of this same element that his predecessor quit the office and fled to Ohio. Under the administration of Mayor Kirksey the city has been lighted, the streets are being put into first-class shape and other civic improvements being added. It is the hope and ambition of the mayor, who is only 22 years old, to make this city one of the most progressive cities of the South.

Citizens Support Mayor

He is receiving the hearty support of all of the progressive citizens. V. A. Brockman, one of the leading business men of our group in Alabama, is lending his aid, financial and otherwise, in helping to make Hobson City the garden spot of the South. While the present mayor has served but two months, his activities along progressive lines indicate that he is inspired by that new race consciousness which is destined to affect the industrial and economic life of our people the country over.

Arkansans Establish Race Community

The Cleveland Advocate

6-2-19

By Associated Negro Press.

Allport, Ark., June 2.—The Allport Colony and Industrial Association has been organized here and has taken over 37,000 acres of land, most of it well timbered. The land is in Lonoke, Jefferson and Arkansas counties, and will be one of the largest Race colonies in the United States. More than 100 families are already preparing to move onto the land. Two big mills are cutting lumber, the most of which is shipped to Detroit.

Governor Brough has been invited to deliver an address at the colony on July 4, at which time there will be a formal opening. A three story school building will soon be erected, and there will be a dormitory for boys and girls. Recently students of the Allport Industrial School made a beautiful quarter sawed oak chair, and sent it to President Wilson.

Negroes Housed In Model Town By Government

The Constitution

5-26-19

There Are 224 Buildings in Truxtun, Va., and the Town Is Exclusively for Blacks—Town One of Government's Housing Projects.

Portsmouth, Va., May 24.—A model town, constructed by the governbent exclusively for negroes, was formally opened with appropriate ceremonies today and Truxton, Va., as the new town is known, took its place on the map as a suburb of this city. Built primarily as a war measure to aid the great Hampton Roads naval base, the 224 buildings in the little town will not be sold immediately by the government, but will be rented from $16 to $19 monthly.

The town is one of the 24 housing projects the United States housing corporation is rapidly completing throughout the country for the government, representing a returnable value of more than $25,000,000 and consisting of 6,000 houses and sixty-four apartments, which by the end of June will be returning $2,500,000 per year in rentals to the government. Final disposition of the houses rests with congress.

Truxton covers ninety acres and contains six store buildings, which it is proposed to operate under a stock company formed by the tenants. Members of the negro race are taking great interest in Truxton and a negro advisory committee, under T. C. Irvin, supervisor of negro economics for Virginia, is cooperating. Industrial concerns throughout the country also are watching the experiment with a view to similar provision for housing negro workers.

Officials of the United States housing corporation, officers from the naval base and officials of Virginia attended the opening ceremonies. L. K. Sherman, president of the housing corporation, and representing Secretary Wilson, of the department of labor, made the principal address.

Town Exclusively For Negroes Wants To Join Anniston

The Constitution

8-12-19

Anniston, Ala., July 26.—(Special.) Hobson City, famous as an exclusively negro town, incorporated, and its affairs exclusively administered by negro officials, is trying to lose its identity. Hobson City lies just outside Oxford, Ala., and close to Anniston, with which it is connected by an electric car line. It has been in existence for more than twenty years and during the entire time it has had only negro officials and its population has been almost exclusively negroes. Recently the town has been without a mayor, Newman O'Neal, the mayor leaving for the north after receiving black-hand letters threatening his life.

The negro town formerly was a part of Oxford but it is seeking annexation to Anniston. A petition signed by a number of the negro citizens has been submitted to the city council of Anniston, asking annexation, and the council has appointed a committee to look into the matter.

Anniston, it is understood, is not eager to add Hobson City to its territory, as there are now said to be only six qualified voters in the town and the taxation that would come from it would be limited while it would require police protection and the extending of other facilities of the Anniston city government, which would make it a financial burden.

Oxford, it is said, might be induced to take the negroes back. A bill has been prepared and introduced asking that the incorporation be dissolved.

MOUND BAYOU NEGRO CITIZENS VOTE ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLAR BONDS

Defender

12-?-19

(By Associated Negro Press.)

Jackson, Miss., Dec. 2.—Evidence of the progress of Negroes in Mississippi, especially along educational lines, is found in the fact that Mound Bayou, a Negro settlement, owned and controlled entirely by Negroes, has just voted the issuance of $100,000 in bonds for the erection of a school. It will be for teacher training and vocational training purposes. It will be the largest institution of its kindin in the South

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McCracken Is Made Model Town Head

The Cleveland Advocate

8-16-19

TRUXTUM, Va., Aug. 14.—Fred D. McCracken, who for some time was in the Department of Economics under Dr. George E. Haynes, has been appointed town manager of Truxtum. Mr. McCracken has the distinction of being the first and only member of the race to hold such an office. The town of Truxtum was built by the United States government to relieve the housing conditions in this section of Virginia. Mr. McCracken is a native of Iowa, and for fifteen years was private secretary to Governor Stephens, of St. Paul, Minn.

"Promised Land" community in Ark.
Mound Bayou
Hobson City, Ala.
All port, Ark.
Truxtun, Va.

bert Cloud, Bridge Commissioner. A. S. McCollough, Public Improvement Commissioner. A. B. [illegible], Tax Assessor and Collector.
William Cummings, City Treasurer.
J. S. Beverley, Superintendent of Parks. G. T. Taylor, City Marshal.

Independence Hts Record

City of Independence Heights

Harris County, Texas

6-14-1919

G. O. BURGESS, MAYOR

CITY HALL, 701 East Thirty-fourth Street

FORUM OF COMMERCE

- J. E. Horton, President
- H. S. Dotson, Secretary
- D. D. Briggs, Treasurer
- E. J. Eldridge, Director Bureau of Civic Welfare
- J. C. Addison, Bureau of Home and Industrial Investment.
- J. W. Ector, Bureau of Urban and Suburban Property
- W. R. Knox, Bureau of Publicity and Information
- D. C. Kemp, Bureau of Garden and Farm Development
- Will Kenidy, Bureau of Efficiency and Labor.
- S. A. Brantley, Bureau of Retail and Wholesale Merchandise

1000 INHABITANTS
DRAINAGE IN COURSE, ($1400)

IDEAL RESIDENT SITE
COOL BREEZES

The Only Exclusively Negro City in the State

When You Want

A HOME

Be Sure You Visit the City Before You Buy.

You Will Find a Welcome.

MOUND BAYOU OIL MILL TO OPERATE

S.W. Christian Advocate

The Mound Bayou Oil Mill was built several years ago at a cost of over one hundred thousand dollars. It began operation in 1913 under what looked to be favorable auspices. It suspended operation soon after the Warld War was in full swing, and no amount of effort was able to turn its great wheels.

8-28-19

Since the close of the War, arrangements have been made for operation again this Fall. Under the present arrangements successful operation is partially assured There is a great demand for cotton seed oil and products. In fact, the demand will be greater than the supply as soon as the blockade to Germany is lifted.

KANSAS CITY MO POST
JULY 23, 1919

GIVES 35,000 ACRES TO NEGRO MOVEMENT

H. [redacted] the Negro "potato king," has received from Phil R. Toll, chairman of the executive committee of the Fort Smith Lumber company, 35,000 acres of northern Arkansas land, to be used by Ewing to promote his "back to the farm for Negroes" movement.

Ewing is working on a plan whereby Negroes, especially returned soldiers, can get employment in the development of the land and at the same time buy it as the tract is developed.

Black Hand Letter Threatens Mayor Of Colored Town

The Constitution
7-18-19

Anniston, Ala., July 17.—(Special.) Black hand letters are making Hobson City officials fear for their safety. The exclusively negro town near Anniston already has lost one mayor, who gave up his position and left hurriedly, following the receipt of a threatening "black hand" letter.

Newman O'Neal, mayor for several years was unable to stand the strain and has moved to Ohio. J. D. Kirksey, who has been acting mayor of Hobson City since Mayor O'Neal left, also has received a threatening anonymous letter bearing the Anniston postmark. The letter not only contained threats against the Hobson City official but also against Sheriff Parker and his deputies, because of their activities in enforcing the law.

The letter has been turned over to the sheriff's office by Acting Mayor Kirksey and efforts are being made to locate the writer. The negro mayor has been advised to ignore the threats and has been promised full co-operation of the sheriff's office in finding the writer.

NEGRO POSTMASTER PASSED RAISED BILLS

The Constitution
8-24-19

Memphis, Tenn., August 23.—Emmett Massey, negro, postmaster at Proctor Ark. for five years prior to July 1916, was arrested by federal agents at his home there today and brought to Memphis, where he admitted, according to officials, raising $1 bills to $10 and passing about twenty-five of them in this city Wednesday.

The bills, according to the federal agents, were so well done their false value was not detected until the merchants who accepted them deposited them at their banks on Thursday. When he attempted to pass two of the bills on Mrs. Bessie D. Burchsted, ticket agent at the Grand Central station, the agents relate, she discovered they were

scratched and called for help, but the negro escaped. Massey, they said, returned to Proctor last night and was arrested there this morning.

ANNISTON ALA EVE STAR
JUNE 27, 1919

NEGRO MAYOR IS GONE TO NORTH AFTER WARNING

Black Hand Letter Causes Newman O'Neal to Give up Government Position

A black hand letter, surmounted by a skull and cross bones, usually used to spell death in all of its horrors, followed by an alleged assault against his person by two unknown men is given as the reason for the departure for the north of Newman O'Neal, for fifteen years the janitor at the government building here and for about half that time mayor of Hobson City, the exclusive negro town near Anniston.

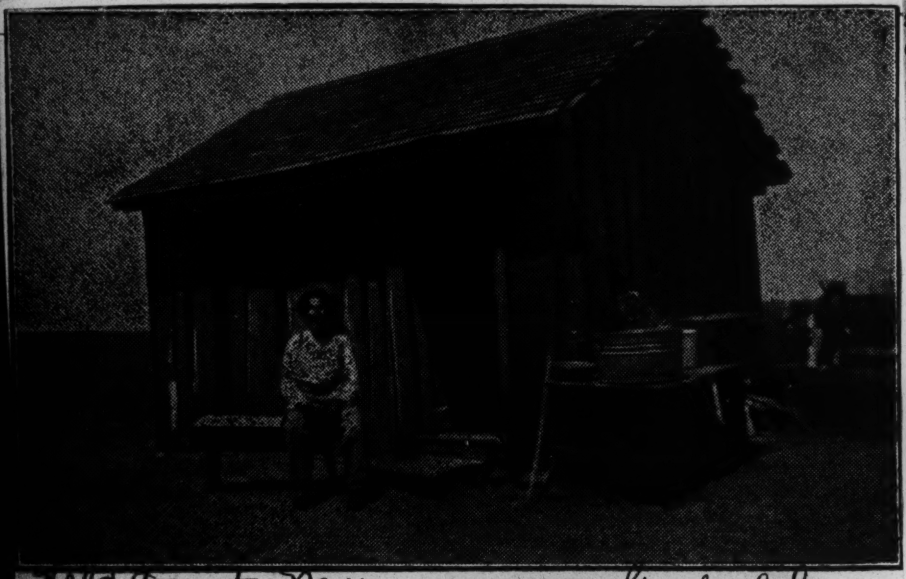
A few weeks ago the Hobson City mayor is said to have received a warning that he would be killed unless he left these parts immediately. A short time after the receipt of the letter the negro mayor claimed that he had been assaulted near his home and announced to his friends that he intended to obey the warning in the letter.

Accordingly the veteran janitor resigned his position as government employe, gave up his position as head of the governmen

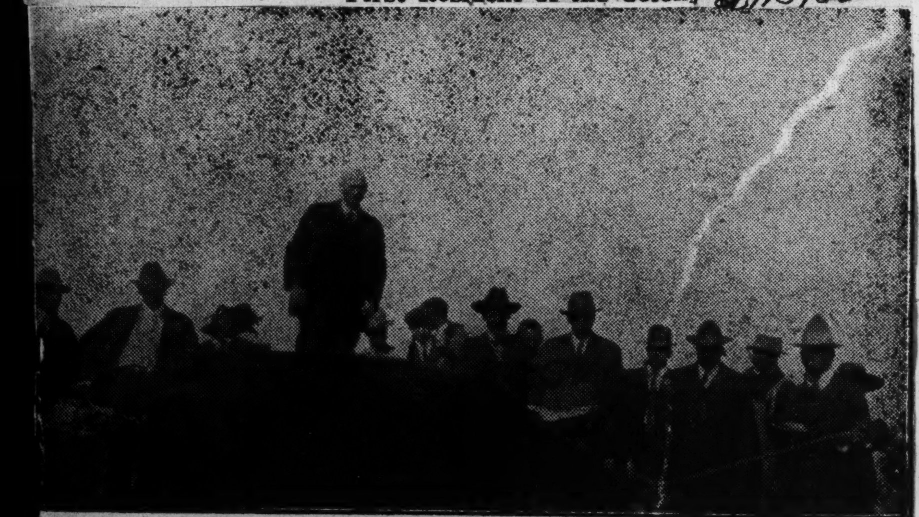
at Hobson City, and went north. Since his departure from this section no other of the officers of the negro town have been the recipients of warning or black hand letters and the blackhand letters and the business of the negro town is going ahead as usual since the departure of the mayor.

Independence Heights Record
Mound Bayou
Hobson city -

Towns and Settlements - 1920



Weld County News **J. M. THOMAS** Greeley Col.
First Resident of the Colony 2/13/20



Dr. H. T. French of the Agricultural College Inspecting Pure-bred Bull Presented by Mr. Welborn
Greeley Col. Weld County News 2/13/20

WHAT I SAW IN THE DEARFIELD TOWNSTEAD SETTLEMENT

Weld County, Colo., 73 Miles Northeast of Denver.

By P. Randolph,
124 Westport Ave., Rosedale, Kas.

After arriving at this thriving community via U. P. R. R. I was met at the station by O. T. Jackson Saunders in his Ford sedan, less than fifteen minutes we were at the town of Dearfield, at first glance I was convinced that the right people of our race was on the job. Buildings were being erected. Farmers were cultivating crops, stock was grazing contentedly on green pastures and I must say that if you want to see fit cattle, horses and hogs, Dearfield has them. I was told by Farmers that the different variety of grass growing there is one of the big features One farmer whose holdings are 800 acres smilingly said we always raise plenty of feed for ourselves and stock and then have a good quantity for the market. After an interesting inspection of the town in which I saw streets numbered and named, a hotel a cluster of dwellings and business enterprises, I was taken to my room in the town hotel. The following morning after a genuine country breakfast I was hustled away by auto. From the town of Dearfield which lies in the South Platt river valley in an eastwardly direction through the farming district and for crops those people have them. Everybody was busy. I gathered vegetables from fields and sent to my family. The best crops I saw in Colorado were in this district. Men and women of color in this district have learned the art of dry land farming and are progressing rapidly. The untiring efforts of the men and women of Dearfield have made it an exception by uniting their efforts with the thought of its founder, O. T. Jackson. To establish a town and farming district on the once great American desert which man and nature are forcing to give way to progress.

Dearfield - Colo -
Townstead - Colo -
A Negro State on the Rio Grande -
A Negro State?

BROOKLYN N. Y. EAGLE
JANUARY 17, 1920

"A NEGRO STATE ON THE RIO GRANDE."

The plan outlined by Dr. Moses Madden of St. Louis, before the House Judiciary Committee, for a new State on the Rio Grande, partly from territory that Texas might be willing to yield, partly from country that Mexico might cede, to be inhabited and administered exclusively by negroes, has to be balanced against the scheme of concentration of negroes in Liberia, advocated before the same committee by the Rev. Dr. R. D. Jones of Philadelphia. In essence one is as un-American as the other. The Liberia notion seems rather more workable.

Most of the negroes in this country, even in Mississippi and Georgia and Arkansas, where mob law is at its worst, do not want to go to Africa and are not anxious to be segregated in a new State. Nor would the South consent to such segregation, for, in so far as it is possible to judge the future by the past, the successful raising of cotton depends on the supply of negro labor. That is one field, almost the only field, where a lifting of the ban on Orientals would accomplish little. Chinese coolies have been tried in the cotton fields and found wanting.

The cleverest agriculturist on earth might well despair of doing much in the Rio Grande country. The negroes are not clever, not advanced in their methods. In bulk and as a rule they are always good natured, fairly industrious and fitted to stand the climate where cotton is raised. There are full Ethiopians, half-Ethiopians, quarter-Ethiopians and near-whites among them. Politicians are not lacking. Let them have a state by themselves, even if there were a stone wall a hundred feet high around it, and toilers would soon get down to the starvation point, while those who had saved in the past would be exploited by shrewd men of their own race. The last state of that race would be worse than the first.

No, the negro wants to stay where he is, and will stay if he can get the common rights of a human being, security of life and property, jury equality, school equality. Social equality he is willing to wait for. On voting equality he is not insistent. He asks little. It is common sense for the Southern whites to muzzle their mobsters and keep their cotton pickers. But that common sense is the most uncommon kind of sense is proverbial.

KANSAS CITY MO STAR
JUNE 2, 1920

BUYS LAND FOR NEGROES.

H. P. Ewing Starts Farm Settlement in Arkansas.

After several months of missionary work among his fellows, H. P. Ewing, sometimes called the "negro potato king of the Kaw Valley," has finally got his negro farm colony in Arkansas started, according to the Little Rock Gazette. The Arkansas paper says Ewing has recently bought more than two thousand acres of farming land in the Pettit Jean River bottom near Ola, Ark., which he is selling to other negroes on a long-term, easy-payment plan. Ewing also has option on thirty-five thousand acres more of land in Northern Arkansas, given him by Phil R. Toll, chairman of the executive board of Fort Smith Lumber Company. If his plan works on the two thousand acres, Ewing said in Little Rock, he intended to open up the thirty-five thousand acres for settlement by negroes.

The "back to the farm for negroes" movement has been a hobby with Ewing, whose home is near Kansas City, for many years. He has preached it through Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas and Arkansas. In Oklahoma there are several small negro settlements which owe their existence to his efforts. On his own farm in Kansas, negroes taken from Kansas City have been given work.

Ewing for several months has been distinguishable on the streets of Kansas City by the long white cotton coat he wears with the words, "H. P. E. says back to the farm is the slogan," in large red letters on its back.

"The negro has a much better chance to develop real manhood and independence on a farm in the South than he has in the North," Ewing declared not long ago. "There is no discrimination against the negro who shows industry on the farm.

"In a number of sections negroes own their own farms and are living happily. A former slave near Eldorado, Ark., owns 375 acres of well improved land. It is stocked with cattle, horses, hogs and chickens. One day while I was visiting him he refused a high price some professional cattle buyers offered him for his cattle. He told them the increase in the weight of the cattle would bring him more than the return in the interest on the money, and that he had no need for more cash."

Such time as Ewing has not been pushing his "back to the farm" movement, he has been working to free the negro districts of Kansas City of vice

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INDIANAPOLIS IND STAR
JANUARY 21, 1920

A Negro State?

One of the latest plans for solving the so-called negro problem comes from the negroes themselves and is nothing less than the suggestion that a state be cut off from Texas and turned over to the colored people to be occupied and governed by them exclusively. It would certainly be an interesting experiment and might prove to be a successful one.

The scheme would undoubtedly attract large numbers of negroes from all parts of the country. They have contended that they are able and ready to take part in this democratic government, but in the South are not permitted to do so and in the North they have slight recognition beyond the privilege of the ballot. In this separate state, which would, of course, be under the same Federal control as all the other states, they could test their claims and their ability. They could establish schools and other institutions to suit themselves and could, if they chose, employ white teachers. The superfluous population in the black belt would probably go to the new state and the best men of the race would probably wish to take a hand in order to insure the success of the state.

It might be simpler to make a new state out of a part of the black belt in labama and Mississippi than to turn e negroes with their limited capital to the arid territory of Texas, but, of urse, such a proceeding would meet ith violent objections. The foolish oposition is made now and then by uld-be statesmen that negroes be onized in Africa, but this, it is safe to say, will never be done, nor should it be. The colored people in the United States are American and loyal ones. It is not negroes that are secretly scheming to overturn the government or to plant bombs; it is not negroes who are joining the "reds" and circulating radical literature. A separate state would no doubt give great satisfaction to the race and would not hinder its population from taking part in industries elsewhere as needed.

FOR [illegible] SETTLEMENT

ALTIMORE MD MORNING SUN

MAY 1920

Property Sought By C. J. Hull Would Be Made Into Home Section.

SITE NOW A BURYING GROUND

City Is Offered 45-Acre Tract And $1,000 — Mayor To Lay Matter Before Estimates Board.

A settlement for negroes in Westport, close to the Curtis Bay industrial district, will rise over what now is the Cherry Hill Potter's Field, where Baltimore buries its pauper dead, if the plan proposed to Mayor Broening by Charles J. Hull is accepted by the city.

Mr. Hull, who was Republican candidate for Congress in the Second district in 1918, has written to the Mayor, offering, in exchange for the Potter's Field, a 45-acre tract on Washington boulevard in the Thirteenth district of Baltimore county, just across the city line. In addition he offers $1,000 in cash to be paid upon transfer of the property. Mayor Broening will lay the matter before the Board of Estimates.

Property in the neighborhood of Westport already is being improved for negroes, Mr. Hull said yesterday. A big pleasure park is being built not far from property that he already owns. It will be completed next spring. Mr. Hull owns 63 acres of land there with a waterfrontage that will be disposed of to manufacturing plants. It is the inland property that he wants to turn into a negro community, with the aid of the 17 acres in the Potter's Field.

With the $1,000 cash that he will pay the city, Mr. Hull suggests that the city can move the bodies now buried in the Potter's Field to the tract on Washington boulevard. He understands, according to his letter, that Baltimore, following in the steps of other big cities, wants to remove cemeteries from within its limits.

As Mr. Hull has planned it, the settlement would consist of about 400 dwellings, each housing one family.

ALL COLORED TOWN CELEBRATES JULY 4TH.

The Topeka Plain Dealer

ROBBINS, ILL., July 14—The incorporated village of Robbins, a suburb of Chicago, with all colored officials from mayor to chief of police held its annual patriotic celebration July 5th more than 5000 people being present. The program was under the direction of the village officials and the committee of 100, headed by Mayor Kellar.

7-27-24

The village has a population of more than 1000 and bids fair to reach 000 within the next few years.

Robbins, Ill.

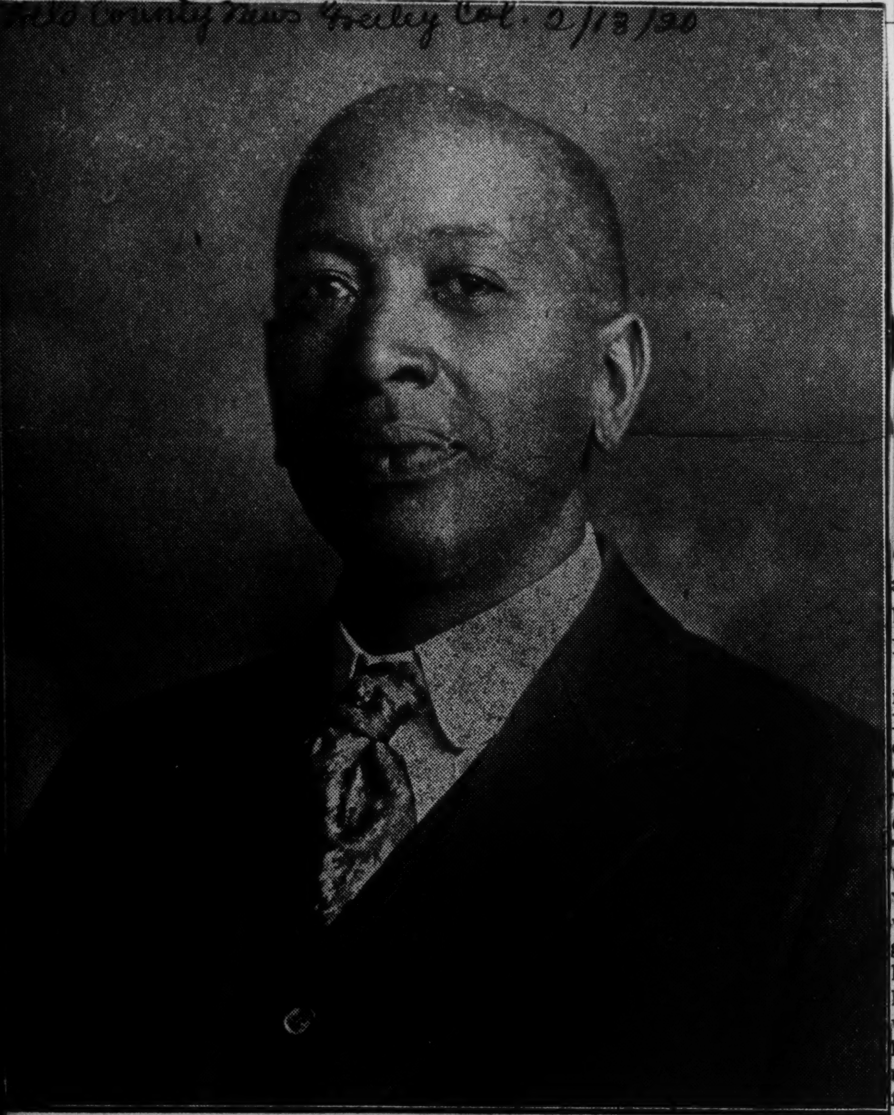
Westport, M.D.

DURHAM NC
SUN

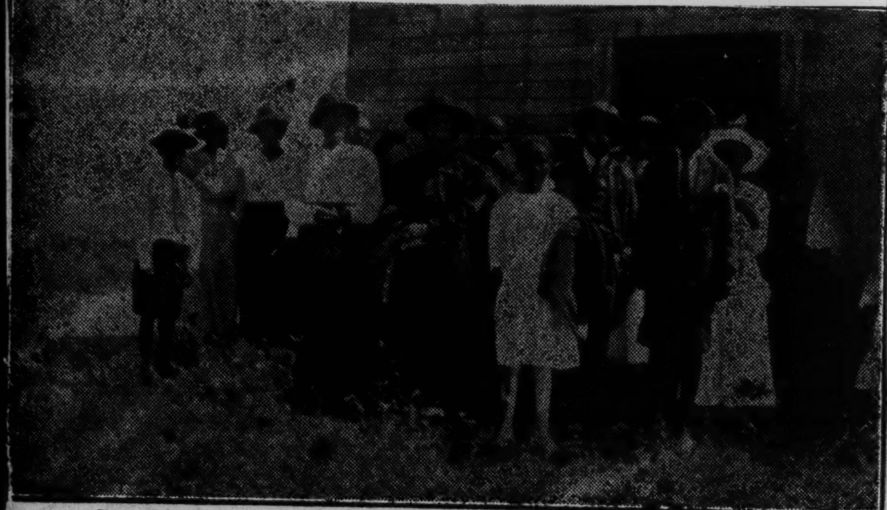
JAN 20 1920

Negroes are contemplating th organization of a colony ten mile from Asheville in wh'ch will be hotel, school, home for orphan negroes, exhibit hall for fairs, and about one hundred acres to be cultivated as a small truck farm.

Towns and Settlements—1920


Weld County News Greeley Col. 2/13/20

O. T. JACKSON
Founder of Dearfield Colony and Leading Spirit in Its Activities



Settlers at Church to Hear Mrs. Booker T. Washington
Greeley Col. Weld County News 2/13/20

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Dearfield Colony. Colo.
Harlem, Settlement, N.Y.
Truxton, Va.
Negroes want own Republic in South west.

City's Negro Colony Rapidly Expanding

ny NEW YORK CITY SUN.
MAY 23, 1920

Harlem Settlement Becomes World's Largest in Period of Fifteen Years---Property Holdings Exceed $100.000.000.

WHEN the figures for the new census are made known they will disclose the fact that New York now has within its borders the largest negro colony of any city in the world. This has all come about within the last fifteen years, beginning with a negro settlement in Harlem.

A certain man owned a tenement house in West 134th street near Fifth avenue. He wanted to raise money, and he told the owners and residents of the block that if he could not get his price for the house he would fill it with colored people. This occurred a little more than fifteen years ago. The people got together and subscribed all they could afford, but the total was not within $4,000 of what he sought, so a few weeks later the house was filled with negroes, who were only too glad to get such a home. In less than six months all the houses on one side of that block were filled with negroes. Thus the colony grew by leaps and bounds, and the prediction is made that all that part of central Harlem from 158th street and then south to 110th street will be inhabited by them.

Colony Now Numbers 140,000.

The estimated population of the colony at present is 140,000. It is bounded on the south by 134th street, on the east by the Harlem River; on the west by Eighth avenue and on the north by 156th street. In the upper section of the West Side the colored people have gone beyond Eighth avenue, while in spots they have also gone as far south on Seventh avenue as 126th street, According to the best information obtainable, the various real estate firms are signing nearly 100 new leases a month.

The property holdings of negroes in the section amount to upward of $100,000,000. There are some thirty churches and more than fifty missions in the colony. St. Philip's Protestant Episcopal Church, in West 134th street, is now recognized as the richest negro church in the world. It has a membership of nearly 4,000, and practically every dollar of its income is contributed by colored people. The rector, the Rev. Dr. Hutchens C. Bishop, has been connected with the church thirty-five years. The present edifice was built a few years ago at a cost of nearly $300,000. The property extends through from 134th to 133d street. The interior of the church is one of the finest in the city. Dr. Bishop has two assistants, the Rev. Everard W. Daniel, the curate, and the Rev. Henry A. Swann. The church will celebrate its one hundredth anniversary on November 14 next. The celebration will be attended by colored clergymen from all parts of the United States.

St. Philip's is affiliated with the Trinity Corporation and its real estate holdings in the negro colony run into hundreds of thousands of dollars. Several new churches are in course of construction. There is a Moravian Church in West 136th street, with a membership exceeding 1,000.

St. Mark's Roman Catholic Church, in 138th street, has a membership of nearly 2,000. The Metropolitan Baptist Temple, at 128th street, of which the Rev. W. W. Brown is pastor, has one of the largest colored congregations of any church in the city. Dr. Brown is a forceful preacher and a power for good among his people. The Salvation Army has a camp at 131st street which is doing effective work among the colored people.

There are four newspapers in the colony, with a combined circulation of nearly 250,000—the Amsterdam *News*, the New York *News*, New York *Age* and the Chicago *Defender*. There are four men in the colony who are said to be worth a million each, ten others who are worth half a million each and several whose fortunes are over a hundred thousand each.

Mary Walker's Palatial Home.

Mary Walker, who died recently in her palatial home at Irvington-on-the-Hudson, was the richest colored woman in the world. The house she lived in at Irvington cost a quarter of a million dollars. The interior contains rare gems of art. Some of the panels in the main foyer were painted by famous artists at a cost approaching the fabulous. Mrs. Walker was very fond of music. She had a pipe organ built in the walls of the main entrance surrounding the stairway and all finished in gold. Organists who have played the instrument say that it is one of the finest in the country.

Mary Walker began as a laundress some twenty years ago in the West. She saved her money and settled in Indianapolis. She conceived the idea of selling preparations to take the kink out of the hair and beautify the skin. She began by peddling her preparations from door to door among her people and she gradually built up a substantial trade. In a few years she established a large factory in Indianapolis where her preparations were made exclusively. At the time of her death the factory employed 1,000 hands.

When the colored colony began to assume proportions in Harlem she came to this city and settled. Her fortune and residence at Irvington were inherited by her daughter, a Mrs. Robinson. Many of the influential white people in Irvington tried to buy the house, but Mrs. Walker refused to sell. She also built a fine home in Harlem, which her daughter now has.

It is estimated that the savings bank holdings of the colored people in the section will foot up $30,000,000. The growth of the colony has been so rapid that the Wage Earners Bank, a rich corporation of Savannah, Ga., has purchased a large plot of ground at the southwest corner of 135th street and Seventh avenue, where it will erect a large bank building; then Charles H. Anderson, a wealthy negro banker of Jacksonville, Fla., is soon to open a bank at 135th street and Lenox avenue. When these banks are established it is expected they will give a fresh impetus to building in that part of the city.

The Sarco Realty Company, which is financed and backed by colored citizens, will build a motion picture and vaudeville theatre at the northeast corner of Seventh avenue and 137th street, which is to cost a quarter of a million, and the Unique Operating Company will erect a huge market at 138th street and Seventh avenue. There are also many other enterprises soon to be started in the colony, and all financed by negro bankers.

John E. Nail of the real estate firm of Nail & Parker, who are among the largest colored realty operators in the United States, in speaking of the outlook, said: "It is only recently the Equitable Life held 109 houses in this section. One hundred of these houses have been purchased by colored people, and most of these are clear. The colored man is fast learning the lessons of finance, and when he does he thinks before he invests, and I am sure you will find him just as honest and just as willing to discharge his obligations as any other person."

Since the colony was established in Harlem colored people have launched forth in every kind of business. They now have three drug stores, half a dozen bakeries, two large shoe concerns, several large furniture stores, butcher shops, grocery stores, restaurants, beauty parlors, barber shops, dentists, lawyers, physicians, moving picture houses, hardware stores and many other kinds of commercial enterprises financed and operated exclusively by colored help.

A new colored Y. M. C. A. building has been only recently opened at 181 West 135th street at a cost of $375,000. It is a six story structure and is one of the finest of its kind in the city. There are a large gymnasium, bowling alleys, a swimming pool 20x60 feet, and many other up-to-date conveniences. The association is known as the West One Hundred and Thirty-fifth Street Branch, and now has a membership of 1,086. More than 500 visitors pass in and out of the doors daily. Thomas E. Taylor is the executive secretary. He has a staff of ten assistants and every employee in the building is colored. It costs upward of $60,000 to operate the building annually, and every cent of the money is contributed by colored people.

The Lafayette Theatre, at 132d street and Seventh avenue, of which Lester A. Walton is manager, is now regarded as the leading negro playhouse in the country. It is operated by the Elite Amusement Corporation. The plays are furnished by the Quality Amusement Corporation, of which E. C. Brown, a Philadelphia banker, is president and general manager. All plays that are sent out on the circuit are first produced here in New York. If the presentation is successful then the piece is sent on the road

IT DOES EXIST A COLORED TOWN

Norfolk Citizen Wrote to Ticket Agent Of The Town To Confirm Reports.

[illegible]

Mr. Walter Howard, of 715 Salter street, perchanced to read an article appearing in *The Crisis* a few months ago commenting on the exclusive colored town of Boley, Oklahoma. Evidently, the very oddity of the situation—an exclusive Negro town—curiously aroused Mr. Howard's interest and to make sure that he understood what he read or that the person who wrote the article did not have things mixed, he wrote to the railroad ticket agent at Boley to inquire if such a thing as a town run exclusively by colored people really existed in America, and if Boley is the town.

The reply to Mr. Howard's letter follows:

"Dear Sir:

"In reply to your inquiry under date of May 24th, will advise that this is an exclusive colored town with about three thousand population. No white people whatever.

"The man's name who appears on the top of this sheet is a big merchant worth about seventy-five thousand ($75,000.000) dollars.

"Yours truly,
"E. R. CAVIL."

The stationery on which the above letter is written indicates that the man referred to is a prosperous merchant of the town, Mr. W. M. Hazel, proprietor of the Boley Daily Market.

Mr. Howard in his communication requesting the publishing of this letter states that he hopes by so doing to offset the mistaken impression prevelent among many people that an exclusive colored community cannot succeed.

Boley, okla.

Want Separate City From Tulsa

RESIDENTS WOULD WITHDRAW FROM COMMUNITY

[illegible] Tribune [illegible]

Tulsa, Okla., June 20—Tulsa Negroes Wednesday petitioned Governor Robertson to call a special election to permit them to vote upon withdrawing their section from the city of Tulsa and incorporating under the name of Norris City. More than 2,000 Negroes singed the petition.

They claimed that they are having to rebuild their section of the city from their own pockets after destruction at the hands of a mob last year. The city government at that time did not give them the protection for which they were paying and they have no assurance that should a similar emergency again arise that they would receive any protection. They object to paying taxes to a city which does not protect them, they plead.

Directly after the riot the city of Tulsa declared through the papers of the nation that they would rebuild the homes of Negroes who were left homeless after the riot. June 3, three days after the riot, the city commissioners passed an ordinance which was intended to oust the black folk from their land. The called it a "fire ordinance." Later the courts set aside this regulation declaring that it was not passed in good faith. Governor Robertson said that he would act on the petition later and it is plain from the wording of the document reaching the executive office Wednesday that the city of Tulsa has in no wise carried out its promise to repay those who were helpless in the clutches of pillage, loot and murder last year in that city.

Norris city, okla

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576 ACRES TO BE USED BY L. W. THOMAS, MADE RICH BY MEXIA OIL BOOM, IN BULIDING MODERN NEGRO TOWN.

Dallas Express

11-11-22.

Muskogee, Okla., Nov. 9.—If the plans of L. W. Thomas, Negro, are realized, 10 years from now the town of Summit, eight miles southwest of Muskogee on the Jefferson highway, will be a model Negro city

Thomas came to this coutry from the mecca of Texas—the oil fields of Mexia—about six months ago, and invested over $100,000 in Muskogeee county real estate. In all, he bought 576 acres of land adjacent to the Jefferson highway in the Summit neighborhood.

It is the intention of Thomas to divide and sell off in plats of 40 acres most of this land. The land will be sold to Negroes but a partiality will be shown to Texas Negoes whose ability as cotton farmers is known to the promoter of the town. A tract of 120 acres has been reserved by Thomas to be disposed of in lots of one acre per owner. In dealing with the small farmer Thomas will endeavor to introduce the growing of fruits and early vegetables.

Plans Cotton Oil Mill.

Already the city of Summit is beginning to gain proportions. A general store is in operation and there is a barber shop and the office of a notary public. Also there is the office of the South Muskogee Development Company, a firm which represents Thomas and his land interest.

Thomas is allowing everything else to hang fire in favor of a 3-stand cotton gin which he is erecting on the right of way of the Katy railway company. Workmen are working overtime on the installation of the cotton plant. Already over 100 bales of cotton are awaiting in the yards the operation of the gin. Just as soon as the cotton fields of his colony will justify, it is the intention of Thomas to install a cottonseed oil mill.

Builds $12,000 Home.

Thomas has made application for a postoffice permit, and is daily expecting a return on the subject.

There are now six families building homes in the Summit addition. Many other families will buy or rent land in the spring.

Thomas is building a fine eight room home for his family on the crest of the hill overlooking both the highway and the town of Summit. It will be modern throughout.

Near the site of the home which he is building Thomas has reserved 24 blocks of land. In this district building operations will be confined to those persons desiring to erect, beautiful, substantial homes.

Wealthy From Oil.

Thomas was among the lucky land owners in the Mexia oil wells flowing royalty into his coffers.

In talking with a representative of the Times-Democrat, Thomas said: "If is my desire to help my fellow man. I've plenty of money and I believe there is a big field open to the Negro with money who is altruistically inclined.

"I shall recommend diversified farming. I shall preach the growing of smaller and better crops. I shall see the members of my colony are furnished with the best of seed and that they are instructed in the tilling of the grain or vegetable.

"At all times I shall endeavor to furnish a market for the product of the Summit farmer.

"Ten years from now it is my prediction that motorists will shift gears when going through Summit. Instead of stepping on the gas and 'making' the town at a mile a minute, they will heed our city limit sign and look the cotton and melon fields over."

Summit, okla

Towns — 1922. Alabama.

45

NEW RACE TOWN FOUNDED IN ALA.

United Order of Good Shepherd Has Acquired Splendid Property of 2,000 Acres in Dallas County

New York Age

CHANDLER IS PRESID'T

4/15/22

Fifty-one Families Now Have Homes in Shepherdsville, and Others are Settling There—"Shepherd's Home" Founded for Aged Members of Order—

(Staff Corespondent).

Shepardsville, Ala.—A visit to this community is an unusual experience. It is the location of "Shepherd's Home," set apart by the United Order of Good Shepherds as a home for old and infirm members of the Order, around which there has grown a community of some fifty-one families, owning land aggregating some two thousand acres, entirely controlled and operated by the organization above named, its officers and members.

George W. Chandler of Montgomery, Ala., supreme president and founder, is the guiding spirit of this Order, which numbers about five thousand members in various sections of the South and in Ohio and Illinois.

Situated sixty-two miles from Montgomery, sixteen miles from Selma, the town is in Dallas county, a section particularly rich in natural resources. It is estimated that the land embraced in this property has a value of approximately $100,000, while there is virgin timberland, which has been conservatively estimated as being worth $75,000. Some of the pine and cedar trees are 275 feet high, and at least four feet in circumference.

The community has provided for both the temporal and spiritual welfare of its members, as there are already established a church, school, store, saw and grist mills, while the people are at the same time raising cotton, corn and other marketable commodities, with ample ground given to truck gardening for home consumption. Proximity to Selma and Montgomery afford easy outlets for salable products. Then just sixteen miles in another direction lays Snow Hill, with its splendid educational institution, which is available when local facilities are exhausted.

The United Order of Good Shepherds, under Supreme President Chandler, holds its annual meeting at "Shepherds' Home," and it is intended eventually to make this town the general headquarters of the Order. The founder, Mr. Chandler, is looked upon as enterprising and thrifty, and has proven himself to be thoroughly honest and sincere in handling the affairs of his Order. Every penny has been scrupulously accounted for, according to declarations by those in position to keep track of the Order's affairs.

The town has been laid out in blocks, sub-divided into lots, and memebers of the Order are constantly coming into the community and erecting neat and comfortable homes. An attraction that is somewhat unusual nowadays is the accessibility of hunting grounds within the area owned by the corporation, in which are to be found wild ducks and turkeys and other desirable game.

The property acquired was formerly in two tracts, the Lee tract and the Mabry tract, and it is held by the Shepherds' Home of the United Order of Good Shepherds, a corporation, acting for the United Order of Good Shepherds of the U. S. of America, with President Chandler, L. W. Calloway, A. F. Owen, D. T. West, J. M. Smith, S. J. Elliott and N. Nesbit as trustees.

The editor of The Age was the guest in Montgomery of Supreme President Chandler and Mrs. Chandler, and made the 62-mile ride to Shephsrdsville, accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Chandler and Mrs. S. L. Duncan, national secretary, in the president's auto. While here the party were entertained by the Rev. E. W. Cooke, resident manager, and Mrs. Cooke.

Builds Town Out of His Farm Lands

Race Man Acquires 3000 Acres; Creates Town Called Hillsboro

Chicago Defender

11-4-22

Birmingham, Ala., Oct. 5.—In Alabama is a town called Hillsboro. But years ago the old was destroyed and a new one created. Now there is not a vestige of the old Hillsboro left as the old sight has been cleared away by a remarkable man, who 28 years ago came to Alabama from Ohio. This man was E. D. Reynolds. He graduated from Wilberforce university in Ohio and 30 years or more ago came to Hillsboro and opened a little store at Milton's Bluff where work was being done on Muscle Shoals and accumulated a little money by thrift and saving and bought an old farm of 237½ acres, and within a quarter of a century has gotten together over 3,000 acres of land which is his very own.

"Land Hunger"

Talk about the "land hunger" of the Anglo-Saxon, no white man ever coveted broad acres more than does E. D. Reynolds, for year by year he adds to his holdings, and it's a safe bet that what he buys he will keep as he hasn't been foolish enough to plaster his purchases with mortgages. He has some mighty fine lands running from Mallar's Creek, on the Tennessee river, but 1,500 acres are in one body, while some of the remaining 1,500 are scattered, but not too widely to be out of his watchful care. He farms and runs a number of tenants, helps members of the Race to acquire land and is trying to build up a community on his property. He is well spoken of by his white neighbors.

He is not only a large farmer, but has a modern two-story brick store, 100 by 33 feet. He operates a saw and grist mill, and has a bottling establishment which furnishes the nearby towns and also sells quite a lot to Decatur, 12 miles away. The roads are good, and it is easy to truck the cases from the plant to his customers. He has a cane mill and pays attention to cattle and hog raising in a sensible way. He has good grades but steers clear of pure breds.

Liberal to Schools

Reynolds has been liberal to schools, churches and lodges, giving land to each on which to build. He gave one denomination 10 acres on which to erect a college and a substantial brick building is nearing completion. Reynolds is 65 years old, married and has 12 living children, all by the same wife. There are five boys ranging in age from 14 to 30 and seven girls from 11 to 25. He has given three of his children college educations, and is at present building a modern two-story residence in a grove near his store. The railroad company has put him in a switch, and unless he dies there will be a large Race settlement at Old Hillsboro.

LAND SALE

10/19/22

Colored Only

Commercial Appeal
Memphis Tenn

Will sell you 40 or 80 acres well-drained Delta Mississippi delta land on ten years' time. Cut-over, $40. Improved, $100 per acre. Located two miles west of Hollendale, Miss. Chance of lifetime to own your own farm.

See BELL LUMBER CO., Hollendale, owner, or write for more information to

BOOTS & TURNER

"SOLE AGENTS"

105 Court Ave. - - - - - - - - - Memphis, Tenn.

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Shepherdsville, Ala

5

Hillsboro, Ala -

Towns - 1922

New York

Montauk Tribe Extinct, Is Court Edict, but Assembly Bill Would Recognize Them

BROOKLYN N Y EAGLE
FEBRUARY 17, 1922

(Special to The Eagle.)

Easthampton, L. I., Feb. 17—The bill seeking to appropriate $300,000 for reimbursement of Montauk Indians, introduced by Assemblyman John J. O'Connor of Manhattan, is a continuation of attempts made by Indian descendants to obtain money for lands of the aborigines sold in 1649-80 to settlers and individuals. It is not taken seriously in this town, where heirs of Arthur M. Benson of Brooklyn own large tracts of the Indian fields at Montauk, or by others who hold title either from the town or Indians, or from the Bensons.

A decision given by Justice Abel E. Blackmar in 1910 is to the effect "that there is now no Montauk Tribe of Indians." Wyandank Pharoah, descendant of the Sachem Wyandanch, who was tribal ruler of the Indians when the Easthampton settlers laid out their colony in 1649, set himself up as king in 1885. Through his attorneys he sought to oust Arthur Benson. The mother of Wyandank, a Mrs. Banks, former wife of a King David, at the trial in 1909, testified that the tribal rights had never been signed away. Justice Blackmar took much time to consider the question at law. He searched the early records and ancient patents. He cited the Governor Dongan patent by which the Easthampton people were given a right to purchase land from the Indians. He decided that when the late Mr. Benson bought from the Indians the land they claimed to own, Benson had a right to do it. He examined an ancient deed given by the Indians in 1680. This deed sold all of Montauk peninsula to the whites for 100 pounds sterling. He found that peaceable possession had been given by the Indians and noted that "in token thereof" the Indian grant told how "we have digged up a piece of earth and delivered it as our act and deed into the hands of the said inhabitants of Easthampton." The gist of the Blackmar decision is that the tribe, by intermarriage with negroes, had disintegrated and had been absorbed into the mass of present-day citizens. He said: "I hold that the purchase (by Mr. Benson) was a lawful act, and there is no consideration of justice which makes me loath to find there is no longer a tribe of Montauk Indians."

Even Washington Is Doubtful.

As to the exact status of the Montauk Tribe of Indians the Federal Government and State differ. If there are any Montauk Indians they are wards of the Nation. But Justice Blackmar holds there is no longer such a tribe of Indians. In 1921 the small remnant of Indians who claim to keep up customs of the tribe, through conusel, applied to Washington to find out what their status is. No decision has yet been rendered.

David Gardiner, Easthampton historian, in 1871, says of the Montauk Indians: "Wyandanch first conferred privilege of pasture at Montauk, 1658." Thereafter deeds were passed selling the entire holdings in Easthampton Town to the settlers and the islands of Plum Island, Gardiner's Island, to individuals. Two-thirds of the Montauks perished by pestilence in 1659. In 1871 the tribe had been reduced to a "beggarly number of some ten or fifteen drunken and degraded beings."

The original Wyandanch left an only son, Wyancombone, but he died of smallpox at an early age. The tribe was then governed by a Dowager Queen. The Pharoah descendants, living in 1867, were King Sylvester and Stephen Talkhouse, the former titular sachem and the latter his heir.

The Montauks have been legally declared extinct as a tribe, says a brief in defendant's case, Wyandank Pharoah vs. Jane Ann Benson, New York Supreme Court, Suffolk County.

Present Queen a Negro.

When Benson bought the lands once owned by the Montauk Indians, a few Indians and half breeds, then living, were removed from Indian Field to Freetown, a settlement near Easthampton village, so-called because set aside for occupancy of the negro slaves freed in the first years of the last century. There is now a very large admixture of negro blood both in the survivors of the original Indians and the remnants of both the Montauks and Shinnecocks.

The queen, or consort, of the so-called King Wyandank of the Montauks, now a widow,, is a full-blooded negro and a daughter of James Van Houten, a negro musician, who was born in a slave State and settled at Sag Harbor after the Civil War. King "Dank" left no children. "Dank" and his supporters worked for 14 years before they got an act through the State Legislature permitting them to bring suit against Benson. Up to that time, 1909, it was held that the Indians were not citizens and had no right to commence a civil action.

There are less than 25 so-called Montauk Indians now living. King "Dank" had his tribal council hut at Sag Harbor, in a negro settlement called Eastville. He was found dead in bed one morning. His queen was away from home nursing another negro at the time of his death. "Dank" had aunts and brothers living at Freetown. Whether the tribe ever met and chose Dank's successor is unknown. There are numerous helf-breeds who assert titular headship of the Indians. Dank left a sister, the Princess Pocohontas, who when last heard from was living in New England. Both Sam and Ebenezer Pharoah are called King Pharoah now.

Dowager Queen Maria lives at Easthampton. Princess Olive died in 1921. The Montauk and Shinnecock Indians gathered in number to attend the funeral. To show how far away the Indians have drifted from former customs the Princess was buried with high ceremonial of the St. Luke P. E. Church, and Dean Treder of Garden City Cathedral was sent for to officiate. Princess Olive was buried in Cedar Lawn Cemetery at Easthampton instead of at the Old Field Indian Cemetery at Montauk.

Montauk Tribe -

Towns and Settlements—1924.

Illinois,

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ST. LOUIS MO. STAR
MAY 27, 1924

MONDAY EVEN

NEGRO POLICEMAN STOPS WHITE GIRL AUTOIST ON ROAD

St. Louisans Protest and Are Put in Jail Five Hours at Black Village.

Disguised as road laborers, nineteen negro policemen of Lovejoy, Ill., near Brooklyn, are posted along the road leading through the town, to arrest all violators of the traffic ordinance. The officials of Lovejoy are all negroes.

Walter Douglas, the chief of police, admitted that his men are policing the road in this fashion, following a row between Patrolman Henry Gamble and J. L. McFail and W. P. Lentz of St Louis.

According to McFail and Lentz, they were driving through Lovejoy Thursday when they saw a big negro leap onto the running board of an auto which was being driven by a white girl. They followed the car and demanded that the negro tell who he was. Gamble, according to their story, said he was a policeman, and then announced that he would free the girl and arrested McFail and Lentz for interfering.

Both men protested, and Gamble struck Lentz, seriously injuring one of his ears, and threatened McFail with the same treatment.

The men were then locked up in the Lovejoy jail, where they were held for five hours in a narrow cell. The jailer refused to telephone to any of their friends, they say, and they had to bribe him to get something to eat.

The men were taken before a police judge, charged with interfering with an officer, obstructing traffic and several other charges. They were fined $3 and costs. The costs amounted to about $7.50 each.

Gamble yesterday said the woman had driven on the sidewalk and he was rebuking her when Lentz and McFail accosted him. He says one of them took a swing at him and he struck back.

Douglas declared Lentz and McFail were only in the jail three hours and never asked to telephone anyone.

LEWISTOWN ILL. RECORD
OCTOBER 3, 1924

Illinois to Have Negro Settlement

new Liberia, Ill.

MOKENA, Ill., October 3.—"New Liberia," the negro settlement proposed for New Lenox township, is said to be assuming definite form despite the protests of residents of this vicinity. Options have been closed on 1,000 acres and as much more is desired and it is proposed to pay $20,000 on account before the option period expires.

The Liberia Development company has been organized and, if the deal goes through, will proceed to provide homes and employment for negroes from Chicago who may wish to leave the metropolis and take up homes in the country. The promoters believe that not less than 30,000 negroes will be attracted to the settlement.

Industries will be started to furnish employment for those not qualified to engage in agricultural pursuits. Schools and churches also are proposed and a modern city with pavements, sewers, water and electric light and power will spring up if the plans of the promoters are realized.

The proposed settlement is bounded by two railroads—the Rock Island and the Michigan Central—and this transportation advantage was a strong point in the selection of this particular location. Residents of Mokena, Frankfort and New Lenox are alarmed over the situation and fear the domination of the negroes will lessen the value of all other property in this section of the country.

CHICAGO ILL. NEWS
DECEMBER 17, 1924

NEGROES EXPERIMENT WITH RUNNING A TOWN

Robbins, Near Blue Island, 99 Pct. Black and Needs No Police Force.

Robbins, Ill

Just beyond Blue Island, about fourteen miles from Chicago's loop, lies Robbins, the Utopia for colored folk, a village of 99 per cent colored population colored preachers, colored teachers and colored village officials: a settlement of, by and for the colored people. It is a village of practically no business, in which the police department has been discharged for lack of crime, which has doubled and redoubled its population since its incorporation in 1917; a center with a church on almost every corner of "Main street." Robbins provides an opportunity for Negroes from Chicago to experiment in the management of their own affairs. The experiment, it is universally agreed, has been a success.

T. J. Kellar, who was the first mayor of the incorporated village, when its population was 350 and one of the outstanding figures in the development of the colored colony to its present census of more than 2,000, declares to-day that Robbins has solved the "Negro problem" in and around Chicago.

"White Belt"—the Trouble Maker.

"Just as Chicago has had trouble in some sections of its 'black belt,' we in Robbins," he said, "were forced to incorporate and keep order in our 'white belt.' During the early years of the settlement, roadhouses and gaming resorts run by unscrupulous white people within the limits of what we called our village, forced us to obtain legal strength. We recruited a police department and appointed a chief and brought the cases of law violation before our police magistrate. Finally, we succeeded in stamping them out and since have been able to disband our police force. There hasn't been an arrest in Robbins for gambling, vice, or crime in years. We have no jail."

On the 139th street, the main street of the village, a sign indicates the village limits. Recently, it has also borne the tar inscription, "K. K. K."

"The initials were painted by one of the youngsters of the village," explained the former mayor, who is a clerk in the office of the board of assessors in the county building. "We have no trouble with the Klan; in fact we are on the best of terms with the few white farmers who live on the outskirts of the village and who are intensely grateful to us for having run out the divekeepers and gamblers.

Expects Public Improvements Soon.

"In politics the villagers are just beginning to experiment. Most of them had never voted before coming to us and now they are running a bit wild at times, but so far the village is out of debt and it is only a matter of time before real constructive politics will exert its influence in building and improving public works."

Electric lights and telephones have been brought into the colored village and negotiations are under way to bring in water and gas. Fire protection is provided only by a bucket brigade.

"Colored folk are intensely religious and great joiners," Mr. Keller went on. "At present we have no fewer than a dozen religions and sects and half a dozen fraternal orders. Every man, woman and child in the village belongs to some fraternal order. The most prominent are the Masons, Eastern Star and the Women's Improvement club. That last named recently paid for a $3,000 clubhouse out of 5-cent weekly dues and the proceeds from entertainments. They are now putting in a library.

"There is still a school shortage, although we have two buildings in the village, with three teachers and room for 150 children. A third, a county school, also accommodates children from Robbins. After the eighth grade the youngsters go to Blue Island, or as far as Englewood high school of Chicago, to take a high-school course."

More Land to Be Opened.

Eugene S. Robbins, a white man, who opened the subdivision on which the village stands, also owns tracts to the west of the two square miles held by the community. This is soon to be added to the "colored metropolis" and will occasion another increase in population.

Street improvements are not yet seriously considered by the village trustees, presided over by Richard Flowers, an electrician, the present president of the village.

"We must wait until the voters start to show a keener understanding of constructive politics before we can start street improvement on a large scale," said Mr. Kellar. "At present 139th street and Clare boulevard are the only hard-surface roads we have. Incidentally, we have posted signs warning motorists that the speed limit is fifteen miles an hour, but without a motorcycle policeman we have been unable to enforce it."

Less charity and more responsibility for the colored man is most likely to effect a cure of his ills, according to Mr. Kellar, "and that is just what we are giving him in Robbins; a chance to learn just 'what it's all about' and to take an active interest in his community and his own affairs."

Lovejoy, Ill.
New Liberia, Ill.
Robbins, Ill.

Towns and Settlements - 1925. New York.

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Harlem, N.Y.
Jamaica, N.Y.

HARLEM IS THE GREATEST NEGRO CENTER IN WORLD

The Most Interesting Community in Existence—Has Its Own Social and Civic Centers, Churches and Magnificent Dwellings

From the Boston Herald

Negro World

The largest Negro community in the history of the world is set down in the midst of New York City—in Harlem, above and to the east of Columbia University, below the Harlem River, in a district twenty-five blocks long and three wide, traversed lengthwise by Seventh and Lenox avenues. Colored people have flocked to it from all parts of the world. In 15 years they have acquired there $60,000,000 worth of real estate. The big rush began with the coming of the war and the cessation of immigration. From our South and West Indies the blacks traveled in thousands to the industrial centres clamoring for labor, and the resultant city within a city on Manhattan Island has a population of 175,000, which is 75,000 more than the colored population of any city of the South, and betokens not only a shift from Dixie to the North, but of black labor from agriculture to industrial occupations.

Not only do Negroes live in Harlem; they own Harlem. This Negro city is not a slum or a ghetto, a quarter or a fringe. Its population lives in new-law apartments and handsome dwellings. It has its own shops and amusement places, social and civic centres, churches and societies. Again and again Harlem Negroes have taken over elaborate and costly white churches. For instance, on a recent Sunday a white congregation held their last service in a splendid Methodist church, and a colored congregation their last in an improvised church made by the removal of the partition walls in two apartment houses. Then the black people marched quietly up Seventh avenue, the doors of the white church opened wide, its congregation arose to receive the new-comers, and then departed from what for years had been their church, parish house and parsonage. The incident illustrates that nowhere else in the country is the feeling between the races so cordial. An authority says: "One of the surest safeguards against an outbreak in New York such as took place in so many northern cities in the summer of 1919 is the large proportion of Negro police on duty in Harlem."

The story of black Harlem is told as we have not seen it told before in the March number of the Survey Graphic which contains a score of articles on various phases of the subject, some of them written by colored persons, all of them clearly the work of careful students. The issue really is a small illustrated encyclopaedia on the Negro in Harlem.

The Negroes of New York 75 years ago clustered about Broome and Spring streets; 60 years ago they occupied the region about Sullivan and Bleecker streets; by 1890 their centre had removed to the point where the 20's meet the 30's west of Sixth avenue; after ten more years they trekked north to West Fifty-third street, where they developed a famous centre, with the Hotel Marshall as a headquarters for Negro musicians, actors and writers, and there the first modern jazz band ever heard in New York was organized. About 1900 began the move to Harlem, which had been over-built with apartment houses, but was under-supplied with good transportation. Landlords could not find tenants. A colored real estate man offered to fill several empty houses.

There broke the first ripple of the coming inundation. The whites took no notice at the outset. Then they tried to check the rising flood. The negroes countered with their own realty corporation, which bought and leased houses for colored occupants. The whites scored some success in inducing financial concerns not to loan money or renew mortgages on colored properties. The Negroes won again and the whites fled as from a plague. Then the war gave its great impetus to the new Harlem. The government and private concerns recruited black labor by wholesale from the South. Some 25,000 West Indian Islanders swarmed into Harlem. None of the newcomers looked for work; it looked for them. Nor did prosperity ruin the newly-rich blacks. They began to buy property. They acquired the big block of 106 modern apartment houses, with inner courts and iron gates, designed by Stanford White. They took over big elevator apartments. Harlem today is a Negro city and a black city it will remain.

These Negroes know little of the gang system of labor which prevails in Detroit and Chicago and elsewhere. Only among the longshoremen does the gang appear. Harlem Negroes are employed as individuals. There is comparatively little danger of a crisis throwing a multitude out of work at the same time. They constantly enter upon new occupations and enterprises. The West Indians do not hesitate to undertake competition with the whites. These Negroes are of the same blood as those which furnished Goethals with his labor at Panama when all other labor had failed him. Most of them came from the British islands for purely economic reasons. A French speaking group came from the French islands. Some 8,000 are natives of the American Virgin islands, forced to migrate when the Volstead act destroyed the rum industry. Harlem houses colored people of Arabian, British, Danish, Dutch, French, Portuguese, Spanish and native African ancestry or nationality. The Spanish-speaking Negroes from Latin America are the most isolated of all the groups.

Harlem has a "grim side," as Winthrop D. Lane says in his contribution to this symposium. All over Harlem the "numbers" are played, a species of policy based on the day's totals of bank exchanges and balances, as announced each day by the clearing house and published in the newspapers.. The bettor has one chance in a thousand to win. The black art flourishes in Harlem, seers, sorcerers, fortune-tellers, fakers of every sort. The "drug stores" cheat the blacks with fake prescriptions. Harlem is very wet—with hooch. More than in other Northern cities, the blacks in Harlem are fleeced and gouged in rents. Lodgers are legion. Cabarets are many, some well-behaved, others otherwise.

But we are told that Harlem will never become a "quarter." The language of Harlem is not alien, but English. Harlem does not talk Yiddish or Italian, but it reads, talks and thinks American. And Harlem is not physically a section cut off from the rest of the city. It is a zone through which run several of the city's main arteries. And the absence of gang labor gives the blacks opportunity for individual contracts with the life and spirit of New York. "The rapidity with which Negroes become good New Yorkers is one of the marvels of observers." There is no race friction and no unusual record of crime.

Truly an amazing spectacle—and a problem whose meaning none can forecast.

James H. Hubert Writes Interestingly on Long Island Town Now Holding Attention of the Entire Countryside

Gives a Most Comprehensive Account of Jamaica, to Which Place Many Have Gone as Home Owners During the Past Five Years in Realty Boom

By JAMES H. HUBERT

New York Amsterdam News 10-17-25

A few years ago Roger Babson, who has earned millions by merely giving advice, was asked whether he would advise investing in city or suburban property. His reply was: "It depends upon the kind of property one is buying. If it is business, I say city; but if it is residential property, then, of course, the suburbs; for the trend of population surely for the next 10 years will be towards the suburbs."

New York, N.Y.

One of the remarkable disclosures of the 1920 census was the drift of the population from the farms to the city. The 1930 census will just as surely show a decided movement from the city to the suburbs. In less than ten years Jamaica has jumped from a population of 90,000 to 350,000. Of the suburban towns in and around New York, none have received a larger quota of colored families than Jamaica—ten miles from Manhattan—cheap and easy transit, subways, trolleys and the L. I. R. R., running 580 trains per day, with property selling for less than in other sections this town has attracted the men who prefer home ownership to accumulated rent receipts.

The first concerted trend toward Jamaica began with the Merrick Park development under the leadership of J. Franklin Patterson. A large plot of ground on Merrick road was purchased, cut up into lots and sold to prospective home builders. This was some eight years ago. This has developed into one of the finest Negro colonies in the State. As was the case in Harlem, many streets formerly closed to Negroes are opening up. One family quietly buys in the block, the neighbors become alarmed and begin advertising for "Colored buyers."

Educational System.

I find that many people do not know that Jamaica is in New York City. It is called the Hub of Long Island and is the centre of Queens, the largest of New York City's five boroughs. It therefore has the same school system as Manhattan, except that the buildings being new, are naturally all new model buildings and therefore superior in construction and equipment. Colored teachers are beginning to enter the schools. At present there are six regulars and a few substitutes. In a few months the new Jamaica High School, one of the finest in America, will open its doors.

Jamaica has eight colored churches, two dentists and two physicians. Drs. Roy T. Peyton and George Carter are both members of the visiting staff at Jamaica Hospital and have enviable practices among both races.

Jamaica's new organ, "The Enterprise," under Mr. Lane, bids fair to become a force in the community.

Industrial Opportunities.

Another factor in Jamaica's growth has been the new fields of industry opening on Long Island. Long Island City is fast becoming second to lower New York as a manufacturing centre. Colored men of Jamaica have heretofore been employed chiefly as porters or messengers in lower Manhattan, but this is no longer true. The Queens Boulevard now under construction, being widened to 200 feet from New York to Jamaica; Jamaica Bay boulevard extending from the Rockaways to Brooklyn; concrete boardwalks along the shore front and other construction projects are calling heavily on Negro labor. The Long Island Railroad has answered the demand of the Public Service Commission for fewer accidents at grade crossings by assigning colored watchmen at most of these gates. Formerly these positions were held almost entirely by foreigners.

Health and Housing.

According to a survey of the Health Department and the Queens Tuberculosis Association, the Negro death rate in 1923 from certain communicable diseases, especially tuberculosis, was relatively high. This called for some explanation. Perhaps the fact that up until a few years ago the centre of Negro population was in the section around Prospect and South streets, living in old-law frame tenements in an environment that compared favorably with the old Minetta lane slums in lower Manhattan a few years ago—the population being a combination of Negro, Italian and Poles—living frequently in the same house.

Some Pertinent Needs.

Jamaica lacks organization. There is no agency inquiring into the problems of health, housing, education and delinquency; no one of our race represents the colored boys and girls in Children's Court; no organized force is agitating for improved streets in the colored districts for sewers and sanitation; no agency is stimulating the youth to continue on through high school and college. The result is that many of the boys and girls drop out of school before they finish the grades. There has been some attempts in organization such as the Frederick Douglas Civic Association and the Dunbar Community Centre, but the supreme need with the increasing population is some agency that will organize the latent forces in the community—and there are many—not waiting until this increasing population brings about conditions that may give rise to such unpleasant occurrences as the reported race riot on South street within the last year. There is need not only for more and better organization among the colored citizens themselves, but the formation of an Inter-Racial Committee who may from time to time confer on programs such as will safeguard the interests not only of Negroes but this entire new and changing community composed of newcomers from all parts of the Southland.

The Family Welfare Society.

One definite step pointing toward a constructive program is that recently organized by Miss Hilda K. Mills, secretary of the Family Welfare Society, of Queens. A study is now being made of various towns, including Jamaica, Corona, Flushing, Long Island City and the Rockaways, to determine what the needs may be and perfect organization in these various communities to cope with any of the welfare problems that may arise. The present personnel of committee includes: James H. Hubert, Miss Helen Goins, Dr. T. Roy Peyton, Mrs. Broadus, Mrs. R. L. Dougherty, Mrs. Mae E. Hubert, Mrs. Anna V. Barnes, Mrs. H. G Parris, Mrs. E. R. Downing, Eugene K. Jones, Dr. Charles H. Pinckney, Rev. Benj. S. Ryland, Mr. Gerald Norman, Miss Louise Latimer, Mrs. Charles S. Johnson, Rev. E. R. Artist, Mrs. J. H. Page, Rev. G. W. Hinton, Dr. Forrest Hayes, Mrs. Albert S. Reed.

Towns and Settlements - 1926

North Carolina.

Colored Development at Hendersonville (subdivision) N.C -

Wilkesboro, N.C -

Albemarle negro suburb.

Hendersonville, N. C., Times

Towns, settlmts etc

MAY 1 5 1926

CITY TO HAVE NEW COLORED DEVELOPMENT

Hendersonville is to have a colored subdivision. W. C. Rusher and Jas. C. Lanning, well known business men of the city, plan a 25 acre development exclusively for the colored people of Hendersonville. Part of the property which they plan to develop and put on the market is out of the city limits. The property is located near Beach street

According to the plans, the development will be one of the best colored developments in this section of the state. A modern church school, moving picture theatre and business houses, besides a number of new residences

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Wilkesboro N.C. Patriot

APR 1 1926

WILKESBORO'S COLORED POPULATION

To the Editor of the Patriot:

If you will be so kind as to publish them I would like to write four or five short articles on the most immediate and pressing needs of our good towns. I will write one each week and will make them so short no one can object to their length. I will be responsible of course, for what they contain. The first article treats of the subject as indicated above.

Many years ago I was called to Wilkesboro on business and, not being familiar with the business places, went into the first store I came to, wishing to make a small purchase. I was met at the counter by a negro woman who asked me what I wanted. The store was owned and controlled by a negro, and situated on main street in the middle of the block on the main square in the center of the town. I went a little ways down the street in the same block and found a barber shop (the only shop in town) conducted by a negro.

I mention the above incident because of the strange impression it made upon me at the time. I had traveled over a number of Southern States and visited many towns and cities, and that was the first time I had ever seen anything just like it. I believe I shall be safe in saying that this condition could not be duplicated anywhere south of Mason's and Dixon's line. I feel sure that the impression made upon me would be about the same with reference to any Southern man who might visit our town for the first time, and every one knows who cares to consider the matter at all, that this condition will guarantee to kill the interest of any enterprising Southerner who might think of establishing a business among us.

The above statements are not meant for a reflection upon the colored people of the community. In fact, I doubt if there could be found anywhere in the South a better class of colored people than our town can boast of, and it is well known that as a class they are lawabiding, respectable people. Neither are the statements above meant to indicate that the negro is not entitled to all the rights of a citizen. I was brought up in a community where many colored people live and have never had any but the kindest feeling toward a selfrespecting colored man and have always desired to see him prosper. But we are two different races and everyone knows that a separation of the two is better for both.

Is there not some way by which one of us could be segregated into some convenient district most suitable to our needs? I visited a town in the state of Mississippi once about the size of Wilkesboro in which only one white man and his family lived. He was the depot agent and postmaster. The negroes had him "segregated" out on a little ridge where he would not interfere with the business development of their town. Now this is a suggestion: whichever course will be wisest and best for all concerned let us pursue that course; but at all hazards let us make this either a white center or a colored center.

My next article will be on Ramshackle Bug Dens. —Reported.

Albermarle, N. C., Press

SEP 3 0 1926

OUR NEGRO SUBURBS.

Albemarle has a negro suburbs in which some 500 or more people form a distinct part of our population and make up a distinct part of the town.

This population is not counted because it is not within the incorporate limits of Albemarle, nor is the colored village an incorporated entity of its own.

The community is generally known as "Kingville." Of the five or six hundred negroes there many own their own homes, others rent, and a certain part of the population is of transient character.

A good school is doing a high class of work. There are stores, churches, and lodges in Kingville, and the place furnishes waiters for hotels, cooks for homes; washerwomen, and a large number of the men follow trades which command high wages.

Perhaps the community is of as high calibre as any other colored community, and outbreaks there are not much more frequent than with the whites.

All of which leads us to remark that Albemarle has accepted the community as a matter of course, and has exerted itself not one whit to make things better. The streets of the town are mere pig paths and ditches, and there is not a decent street or highway leading into the town.

Strictly speaking, it is not Albemarle's business. But in Kingville there are a number of taxpayers, and property subject to taxation. The county owes the community a duty to the end that the streets of the town should receive at least as good treatment as the highways of the county.

But Albemarle should go a step further, and show to the negroes of Kingville a certain interest which would guarantee to them the kind of streets which would stimulate pride in themselves, and that Kingville be regarded as an asset rather than as an incubus.

When Rev. F. A. Bower said to The Press that it is a shame something is not being done to improve the roads into Kingville, he gave The Press this little bit of inspiration to express itself in total agreement with his view.

Towns and Settlements—1926

Maryland

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Highland Beach. Md. -
Brentwood, Prince George's Co.
Maryland

ONLY COLORED MD. TOWN NAMES COMMISSIONERS

Election Means Continuance In Office Of Mayor Henderson

TOWN INCORPORATED WORTH $700,000

Founded By Frederick Douglass. Bay Front Lots Can't Be Sold

HIGHLAND BEACH, MD.—The election of Commissioners of Highland Beach resulted in overwhelming victory for the progressive forces.

The commissioners elected were Dr. Milton A. Francis, Dr. Edwin B. Henderson, Mr. Norman Murray, Mr. Haley G. Douglass, and Mrs. James E. Walker. The personel of the Commission Board assures the retention of the present Mayor if he decides to hold the office. Nearly three times as many votes were cast at this election than at any previous one.

Much dissension was fostered by a handful of people in the late days of the present administration due to the determination of the majority of the commissioners to [illegible] the streets of the town in opposition to the desires of one of the heirs of a few unsold lots in the town who threatened to have the penalties of the State Forestry Act invoked against the Commissioners for removing trees that grew in the very middle of the public streets.

The commissioners also sought legal opinion to apprise the people of their rights to the use of the beach fronting the property of the colony. The Supreme Court of Maryland in 1923 handed down the following decision which is unchanged to this date: In the case of King vs Land, etc., Co. 143, Md., 693, it was held that "The recording of a plot of waterfront property and conveyance of lots by reference thereto, has the effect of devoting the beach to the public use as an avenue.' This decision helps clear up a situation that threatened in the case the present heirs of future owners might attempt to sell beach property.

Like any other controversial economic issue some few sympathizers indulged in personalities which added zest to the campaigning.

The town of Highland Beach is rapidly becoming a Mecca for cultured colored people who seek rest and recreation and a waterfront summer resort. From five modest cottages in 1898 when founded by Frederick Douglass, the incorporated town of Highland Beach and its sister environ Venice Beach, numbers forty cottages and a large hotel capable of caring for several hundred people, and property valued at several hundred thousand dollars.

The substantial, future-seeing, intelligent people of the town are planning to safeguard the possession of the beach for the residents of today and the children of tomorrow.

Only owners of real property and residents of at least six months vote in the annual election. The judges of the election were: Mr. O. T. Taylor, Mrs. Beatrice Francis, Mrs. Minton with Mrs. A. Flagg serving as alternate and the clerks during the balloting were Mr. L. Roscoe Evans and Mrs. Herbert Scurlock. The results were as follows: Dr. M. A. Francis, 70 votes; Dr. E. B. Henderson, 68; M. Murray, 59; H. G. Douglass, 38; Mrs. J. E. Walker, 32; J. Douglass, 28; Mrs. M. C. Terrell, 24; Dr. Scurlock, 20; Dr. Minton, [illegible], Mr. O. T. Taylor, 15; R. Wormley, 15; Mrs F. C. Gray, 10; Mrs. Bond, 9; L. R. Evans, 6; T. Williams, 5; U. Guy, 5; Dr. Wharton, 4; Dr. Freeman, 4; Mrs. A. Lewis, 4; Mr. Reid, 2; Mr. Moore, 1; Mrs. F. Douglass, 1. Many of the above were in no sense candidates but were given complimentary votes.

The Commissioners will elect the Mayor, Town Clerk, Treasurer, and Town Sergeant at the next meeting in August.

Afro American
8-7-26
Baltimore Md.

COLORED MAYOR OF BRENTWOOD PRINCE GEORGE

Only Incorporated Negro Town In State Officered by Negroes

Remus H. Dorsey, of Clarksville, Howard County, and Washington, D. C., visited the HERALD-COMMONWEALTH on Tuesday. Mr. Dorsey is in close touch with the political situation of the State, but refused to comment on the ultimate outcome after Tuesday's election. He was formerly employed in the United States Senate during the incumbency of Senator France.

Mr. Dorsey said that the town of Brentwood, Prince George's County, the only incorporated town in the State having colored officials, was growing rapidly. Population is increasing rapidly and the town was a model one. Jeremiah Hawkins, well known in State political circles, is mayor of Brentwood.

Herald Commonwealth
10-30-26
Baltimore Md.

a Settlements-1927

Michigan

73

Herald
emer Mich.
JAN 28 1927

FAILED, AS PREDICTED.

Some time ago the Herald commented adversely on the bringing of a colony of Negroes from Chicago for settlement on farms in ~~Iron~~ county, Michigan. This adverse comment was made jointly with Iron county newspapers who protested that the Negroes were not acclimated to work in the north country and that they would become county charges sooner or later.

Last week this prediction was fulfilled. The Negro settlement consisted of seven families, all of whom were found in a starving condition. With no previous experience in farming or wood cutting in the north, their settlement proved to be a dismal failure. The land, which was purchased on the installment plan from a Chicago real estate promotion firm, was not fully paid for and there were no prospects of paying for it. Finally, conditions became such that Iron county authorities were forced to come to the aid of the Negro settlers and the sheriff was authorized by county officials to furnish raliroad fare to Chicago for each member of the colony.

This shortsighted method of colonization for a race not used tothis kind of country is due to the unscrupulous promotion of a Chicago real estate firm. Nevertheless, despite its predicted outcome, it is a blackeye for the upper peninsula. We believe that the U. P. Development Bureau or the U. P. Supervisors Association should take measures to curb any further projects of this kind.

NEGRO COLONIES ARE STARVING UP NORTH

Forsyth, Ga., Monroe Advertiser
FEB 24 1927

MICHIGAN NEWSPAPER, TELLS SAD TALE OF THE PLIGHT IN WHICH DARKIES HAVE FALLEN IN THAT SECTION.

All is not well with the negroes who have left the congenial clime of the South to seek the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow in the North. This is evidenced by the following article which appeared in the Chrystal Falls, Mich., Diamond Drill of January 29:

One of the most pathetic conditions of poverty, laziness and suffering ever exposed in Iron county came to light when Sheriff Dickie and Carl Sholander, superintendent of the poor, visited the negro colony at Elmwood, in that county.

Twenty-five people, nine of them children, were huddled into some old shacks with no food and in only one of the several small buildings was there wood enough on hand to keep a fire burning over night in the old shell of a stove that answered for the heating of the building.

But the most agonizing condition was exposed in an old ramshackle barn, where a team of scrawny horses had been tied without food for over two weeks. One horse had died of hunger and lay behind the other starving shadow of a horse, still tied to the manger. The wood all about the horses, so far as they could reach, had been gnawed away and devoured as food by the suffering animals. The men cut the living animal loose and he staggered after every chip or anything that had a resemblance of food about it.

The animal was too weak to survive, and Mr. Dickie ordered it shot to put it out of its suffering.

Mr. Sholander bundled up one family of ten and shipped them back to Chicago, and it is very probable that the others will be following in a few days.

The colony has been at Elmwood all summer. The men started to get out some poplar pulpwood last spring and towards the end of the summer they had succeeded in getting one carload ready for shipment. They sat down and waited for the returns from that carload before attempting any more work. What became of the proceeds is an enigma to them and a puzzle to the officers. It was thought that the payment was seized either by the person who sold them the land or by those who were furnishing them food all summer.

The families were living in the several shacks clustered about the station at Elmwood, the largest being in the old McGraw shack. Mr. Sholander said he went through all of them and in only one did he see enough wood cut to keep fire during the night. There was plenty of wood all about, down and standing timber, but the men were averse to the exertion of cutting it. They would go out occasionally and rip a board or slice a splint off one of the old buildings for fuel.

Mr. Sholander says that he expects that all of the negroes will leave soon. Their funds are evidently exhausted and they want to get back where it is warmer. The women and children will certainly be sent away at once.

The removal of this colony from the county will be a relief to the county officers and the Stambough township officers.

Colony of Negroes brought in from Chicago to Farm in Elmwood, Iron County Michigan failed.

NO.

NAME Towns and Settlements - 1930.

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Towns and Settlements - 1932

Minnesota. and N.Y.

N. Y. SUN
SEP 2 1932

Negro Drift Reported Gaining

So-Called Exodus Is Causing Some Concern in Harlem—Lower Rents Being Sought.

Concern is being expressed in some quarters of Harlem over the drift of the Negro population to other sections of the city, such as the Bronx, Queens and Brooklyn. It has been asserted that this flow of families away from Harlem has become especially noticeable during the last year and that as many as 100 families have gone out in a week, principally to obtain cheaper rent.

While all who are informed as to Harlem conditions agree that a movement outward exists, they do not agree as to its extent. Eugene K. Jones, executive secretary of the National Urban League at 1133 Broadway, didn't think that it had become a trend that should cause any serious concern. For twenty years or more families have been going out, he said.

Mr. Jones pointed out that while Manhattan's population as a whole decreased substantially during the 1920-1930 decade, its Negro population, on the contrary, increased. In 1920, there were 109,000 Negroes in Manhattan, while in 1930 there were 224,670, most of them living in Harlem. During the same time the Negro population of the entire city jumped from 152,400 to 327,000.

Rent Main Consideration.

As population increased in Harlem, said Mr. Jones, there was a natural movement toward more open and greener areas, better and cheaper living conditions, precisely similar to that which has led thousands of white families to leave the central borough. Negro families not only rented apartments elsewhere but bought one and two family houses. The depression, with attendant unemployment, has during the last year or so made the problem of paying rent all-important, and this now is the main consideration in leaving Harlem.

Corona, Flushing and Jamaica in Queens have received much of the outgoing population. Negroes have settled in apartments in the Clinton avenue-Union avenue section of the Bronx. Curiously enough, there was a movement to the lower East Side, where old tenements could be obtained very cheaply. Negro families have also gone up to Westchester county, to cities such as Yonkers, New Rochelle and White Plains.

Members of the Thirty-second police precinct, whose station is on West 135th street, think that the "exodus" is exaggerated.

John E. Nail, of the realty firm of Nail & Parker, Inc., on West 135th street, said that the quest for cheaper apartments undoubtedly was responsible for the departure of many families, but he did not think it could be called an exodus. He felt that a lot of people who moved had made a big mistake. They can't do better anywhere than they can in Harlem right now, he said.

Conditions in Bronx.

Mr. Nail said that the rental range there is from $4 a room a month to about $17 or $18 in the better type buildings. One and two-room apartments rent at the $17-$18 price. Five, six, seven and eight-room apartments, not served with steam heat, can be had for about $4 or $5 a room. He went into the Bronx to observe the new living conditions of people who had left Harlem and he wasn't impressed.

During the 1920-1930 decade apartment vacancies decreased in Harlem and rentals went up, and it has been said recently that now about 40 per cent of the available apartments between 110th street and 155th street are empty. Were there many vacancies in Harlem?

"Well," said Mr. Nail, "we've got them, but I think in only about the same proportion that every one else has. Families have doubled up, tripled. Our problems are like everybody else's."

There has been some fear in Harlem that if families continue to move out Harlem's position as a Negro community will be affected. But informed men don't think there's much in that.

Editor Gains New Outlook On Recent Minnesota Trip

By C. A. FRANKLIN

Call
8-14-32
Kansas City, Mo.

After what I saw in Minnesota last week, I am ready to believe Negroes can do anything. I met two remarkable personages. One was N. R. Lyght, of Lyght's Sanbeach resort on Caribou lake, Lutsen, Minnesota. This is on the north shore, that part of Minnesota which lies north of Lake Superior. Mr. Lyght is from Alabama, a Negro with no admixture of white blood, but he homesteaded the bigger part of his land years ago and has lived on it summer and winter ever since. He, his wife and his thirteen children have thrived physically and financially in a section where snow and cold make snowshoes and skis as much a part of the family gear as the ax and the frying pan.

Deer As Neighbors

Some used to say that no Negro can endure cold, therefore Henson did not make the trip to the North pole with Peary. The doubters ought to see Lyght. He has added 40 acres on Caribou lake to his original holdings, and was lucky enough to get one of the two sand beaches there. The lake itself is big with the softest, most wholesome water that ever invited a swimmer to take a dip. He has built cabins which he rents in the season. The deer and the moose come down to his backyard to visit. The out-of-door folks rent his cabins, which are as clean as a pin and altogether "woodsy," the work of his own hands. It would have done you good to hear him say that it was as easy for him to get financial aid now when he did not need it, as it used to be hard when he needed it badly.

The old saying that God helps them who help themselves holds good in Lyght's case. The coming of a St. Lawrence river ship channel means that ocean going vessels will load a thousand miles in the interior of America. This fact has caused a boom in land everywhere about the great lakes. Lyght's pioneering spirit deserves the good that is coming to him.

I almost forgot to tell you I saw the northern light, those wonderful manifestations which center around the North pole. They are fireworks of the most ethereal ki
a treat to me with my Texas orig

Harlem - Exodus
Sanbeach Resort on Caribou Lake
Minnesota -

Towns and Settlements-1936

Alabama.

There are five Negro towns in Alabama. The names and population are: Clearlake, 300; Greenwood Village, 1,000; Hobson City, 350; Plateau, 1,500, and Shepherdville, population not given.

Clear lake, 1300 population
Greenwood Village 1,000
Hobson City. 350
Plateau 1500
Shepherdville -

191

73-1943
The Northwest
Enterprise
Seattle, Washington

TOWN FOR NEGROES RUMORED FOR WASHINGTON

MAY 5 1943

73

PASCO — Reports widely circulated in eastern Washington recently claimed that two towns — one for Negroes and another for white residents — will be constructed on the army's 400,000-acre Hanford engineering project in Benton County.

MAY 5 1943

The two towns will house an estimated 15,000 workers needed for the huge project. The reports stated the town for Negroes will be built a few miles north of Richland, Wash., one of the towns now being evacuated under army orders.

MAY 5 1943

Bares Facts On Race-Governed Carolina Town

JUL [illegible] 1943

BY JAMES J. FOSTER

73

SUMTER, S. C.—Dr. J. P. Garrick, president of Morris College, made public Monday some interesting facts garnered from a history sent him by W. Ray Matthewson of Princeville, N C., the only Negro-governed town in that state and one of the few in this country. Dr. Garrick and Mayor Matthewson met several months ago while the former was on tour. A friendship began and which has been carried on through constant correspondence The latest was a historical sketch of the town.

JUL 8 1943

Princeville was chartered, February 20, 1885 as a colored town. It has its own law-making body, a tax collector, treasurer, police force and a mayor. Property valuation for 1942 was $80 000, seventy five percent of which is owned by race members, the remainder being divided between corporations and a few white citizens. In 1940, its population included 750 non-whites and 25 whites.

The town owns its own light system, electricity being bought from Tarboro. Two main highways, 258 and 64, pass through it. Sidewalks have been constructed by the state and it supports three well-attended churches and an up to date and modern elementary school. The town also has an efficient fire fighting organization.

Along with this historical information Mayor Matthewson sent Dr Garrick a copy of the official ballot used in voting with instructions to voters. The ballot lists the slate for election and blank space for names not included. Mayor Matthewson is well known here and Dr. Garrick said our people are proud over his re election and the progress the town is making.

JUL 8 1943

Soldiers To Get 30,000 Cigarets From Mound Bayou

Defender
Chicago Ill

73

MOUND BAYOU, Miss. — (ANP) —Mississippi's only all-Negro town has sent 30,000 cigarets to the soldiers at the front, it was learned this week.

J. F. Huddleston, merchant and filling station operator here, has just received a letter from the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco company stating that 30,000 cigarets have been shipped to American soldiers as per order placed by Mr. Huddleston, who sponsored a drive by merchants, planters and citizens of Mound Bayou to collect funds for their purchase to be distributed without regard to race, color or religion.

JUL 24 1943

All residents of the community gave liberally and the movement was an immediate success. Each package of cigarets will have two stickers, one reading "Victory for All," the other, "Mound Bayou, Miss."

Macon, Ga., Telegraph
November 14, [illegible]

Editors Asked to Visit Hancock Negro Center

73

SPARTA, Ga., Nov. 13—Editors from all of the adjoining counties and others in Middle Georgia have been invited to attend a barbecue at the Log Cabin Center, Negro community which has been developed by Prof. Benj. F. Hubert and other members of his race. In the northern part of Hancock county on Sunday afternoon, Nov. 21. Besides the barbecue, a program of Negro spirituals will be put on for the editors and they will be shown some of the work being done and will be shown over some of the places in this community. A cordial and urgent invitation has been extended to the editors and it is thought that quite a number of them will accept and be present.

Contented Farm Life

Log Cabin Community
of Hancock County
Ga -

73

The Chronicle suggests that the people of the South turn to the Log Cabin community in Hancock county, Georgia, to find inspiration for a broad program aimed at helping our Negroes find a more prosperoius, happy and satisfying life. **Augusta, Ga., Chronicle**

Recently, the citizens of this unique community, who are all Negroes, held their second annual beef cattle show, and something like $1,500 worth of pure-bred beef cattle was sold. While the buyers were both white and colored, the owners of the cattle were Negroes and the auctioneers were Negroes.

Credit for the conception and growth of this all-Negro community, which has its own store, blacksmith shop, and canning plant, goes to Professor Benjamin Hubert, one of Georgia's leading Negro educators, who is president of the Negro Industrial College at Savannah.

October 12, 1943

Professor Hubert has perceived that the happiness and well-being of the largest number of members of his race who live in the South depends upon their self-sufficiency. Therefore, he has urged them to live together in farm communities, to develop their resources, and raise their own products for sale. His theories are paying handsome dividends in the Log Cabin community of Hancock county.

What the Negroes have done in Hancock county, they can do in other sections of Georgia and of the South. Already his experiment has attracted the attention of people in other sections of the country. The Santa Barbara (Calif.) News-Press recently concluded an editorial on the Log Cabin community project with these observations:

> "Without any way condoning poll taxes, double standards of justice, disenfranchisement or acts of hoodlumism, the average Northerner and Westerner must concede that there is a realistic approach to the constructive solution of what is perhaps America's most pressing internal problem. And it is vastly encouraging to men of good will, of whatever sectional or racial category, to find a Southern newspaper giving its support and encouragement to such a constructive and realistic project as this Negro community."

This is a project which not only deserves wholehearted commendation; it deserves to be emulated.

Princeville, N.C.

All Negro Town Reports On Third War Loan

Norfolk, Virginia
Journal and Guide

73

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Mound Bayou, Miss., one of the few all-Negro town in American (population 1,000), reported to the Treasury Department last week that more than two-thirds of its $15,000 Third War [illegible] quota has been reached.

OCT [illegible] 1943

Mayor Benjamin Green, first male child born in the community he now heads, said more than $12,000 in War Bonds have been purchased by Mound Bayouans since the campaign opened September 9.

The town is located in Bolivar County, Miss., one of the principal counties raising long staple cotton in the world.

Green said the Mound Bayou War Finance Committee expects to reach its quota slightly before the official close of the Third War Loan Drive.

OCT [illegible] 1943

Jail Police Chief Of Negro Town

Journal & Guide
Norfolk, Va.

73

ANNISTON, Ala. — Calhoun County authorities are holding Police Chief Fayette Cunningham of Hobson [illegible] Alabama's only a[illegible]egro community, following Cunningham's voluntary surrender in the fatal shooting of Roosevelt Campbell here.

OCT [illegible] 1943

Chief Cunningham said that he was accompanying Sam Jones down a street in Hobson City when they came upon a man acting suspiciously. A halt command, the chief said, was ignored, whereupon he opened fire on the suspect. The body of the man was found in the weeds near the scene of [illegible] shooting and quickly identified.

No charges were placed against the chief, who was detained pending investigation.